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Youth in India: Situation and Needs 2006-2007, Bihar

International Institute for Population Sciences (IIPS)

Population Council

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Youth in India: Situation and Needs 2006–2007

BIHAR

International Institute for
Population Sciences, Mumbai

Population Council

This report is the result of a sub-national study undertaken by the International Institute for Population Sciences, Mumbai and the Population Council, New Delhi, as part of a project to collect information on key transitions experienced by youth in India, including those related to education, work force participation, sexual activity, marriage, health and civic participation; the magnitude and patterns of young people's sexual and reproductive practices before, within and outside of marriage as well as related knowledge, decision-making and attitudes. The project was implemented in six states of India, namely, Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand, Maharashtra, Rajasthan and Tamil Nadu.

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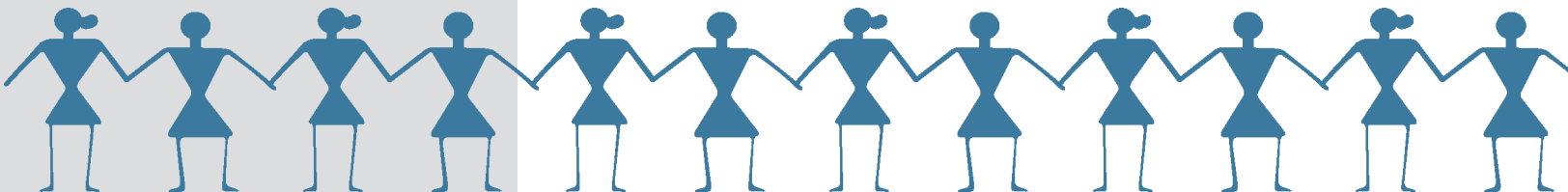

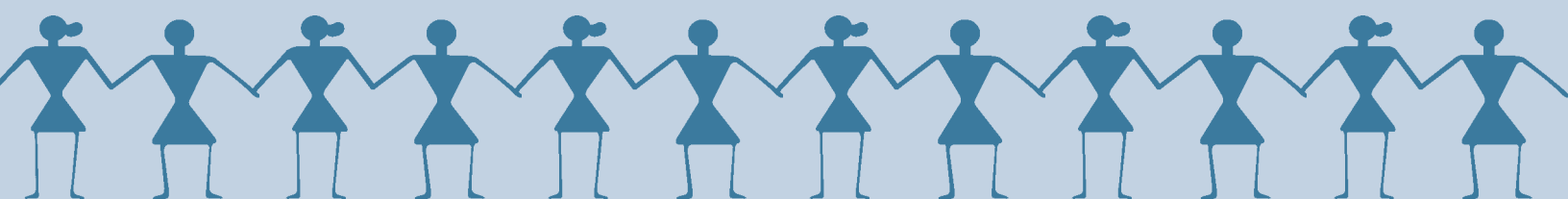

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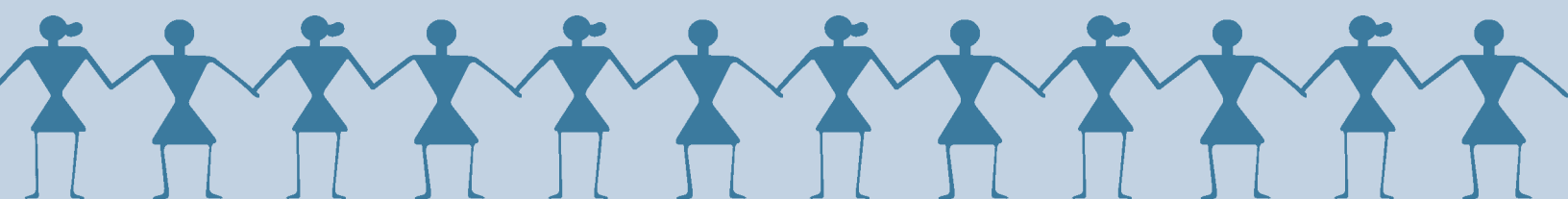

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Foreword

The Government of India is committed to addressing the multiple needs of young people. The Eleventh Five Year Plan, the National Youth Policy, the National Population Policy 2000 and the National Rural Health Mission have all advocated special programmatic attention to addressing this population. National AIDS Control Programme, Reproductive and Child Health Programme and notably the National Adolescent Reproductive and Sexual Health Strategy provide the framework for a range of sexual and reproductive health services to be provided to youth.

Effective implementation of policies and programmes, however, has been difficult because of the lack of evidence on young people's situation and needs. The project Youth in India: Situation and Needs is intended to provide this evidence. Research has been conducted in a total of six states of India—Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand, Maharashtra, Rajasthan and Tamil Nadu. It provides a wealth of evidence on married and unmarried young women and young men from both rural and urban settings of each state. It covers almost every major dimension of youth life: education, work force participation, family life, sexual activity, marriage, health and civic participation. It provides state-level evidence on the magnitude and patterns of sexual and reproductive practices in and outside of marriage as well as related knowledge, decision-making and attitudes. Findings from the study provide important base-line indicators against which the long-term impact of programmes may be measured and will certainly go a long way in guiding policy, programmes and advocacy on youth issues.

This report focuses on findings from **Bihar** and is based on interviews with 8136 youth from all over the state. The report provides an enormous amount of information for the first time at the state level. The information will be useful to policy makers, programme implementers in government and non government sectors, rights activists and researchers alike who are committed to addressing the needs of Bihar's young generation. I appreciate the efforts put in by the International Institute for Population Sciences, Population Council and the technical advisory committee who guided the study.

Naresh Dayal

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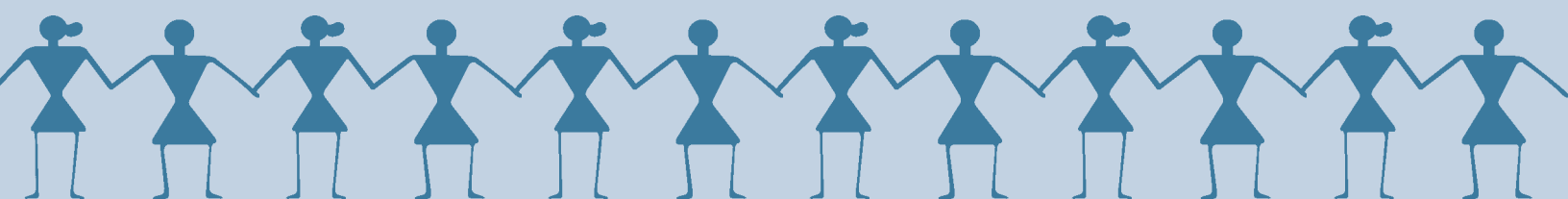

Acknowledgements

This report from the *Youth in India: Situation and Needs* study describes the transition to adulthood experienced by young men and women in Bihar. It covers multiple dimensions of their situation, ranging from education, work and marriage to sexual and reproductive health and behaviours. Evidence and recommendations contained in this report highlight, moreover, directions for programming and research that will enable youth in Bihar to make a successful transition to adulthood.

The *Youth in India: Situation and Needs* study has benefited immeasurably from the input of many. We are grateful to the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India, for granting permission to conduct this study and to the Secretary, Shri Naresh Dayal, for his support throughout the project. We are also grateful to Shri G.C. Chaturvedi, Mission Director, National Rural Health Mission, Shrimati S. Jalaja, former Additional Secretary, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Shri V. K. Malhotra, Additional Director General, Dr. Rattan Chand, Chief Director, and Shri Rajesh Bhatia, Joint Director, Statistics Division, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India for their support and guidance. We would also like to acknowledge the significant contribution of Shrimati S. Jalaja as chair of our Project Advisory Committee; and Shri S.K. Das, Director General, Central Statistical Organisation and former Additional Director General, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India for support provided throughout the project.

We would also like to express our thanks to Shri C.K. Mishra, Principal Secretary Health and Shri Ravi Parmar, Mission Director, National Rural Health Mission, Government of Bihar for their support for the study in Bihar. We are thankful to the Director, State Institute of Health and Family Welfare (SIHFW), Patna for providing the logistic arrangement during the survey. The smooth functioning of fieldwork was due, in large part, to the support of the state health department, and we would like to acknowledge the contribution of all, including staff at the district headquarters level and primary health centre level.

The study received generous financial support from the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation and the David and Lucile Packard Foundation; we are grateful for their financial support as well as for useful comments and suggestions provided by Lester Coutinho, Don Lauro and Lana Dakan of the Packard Foundation, and Poonam Muttreja and Dipa Nag Chowdhury of the MacArthur Foundation over the course of the project.

We would like to acknowledge the contribution of the late P.N. Mari Bhat, Director, International Institute for Population Sciences, during 2005–07. His input in the design and implementation of the study and in ensuring the progress of this challenging project contributed immensely to the quality of the study.

We are grateful to our Project Advisory Committee members for their input, which ensured that our study did indeed address all the key issues that require policy and programme attention. We appreciate their contribution both during meetings of the committee and in various one-on-one discussions during the course of the project.

We acknowledge with gratitude the contribution of members of our Technical Advisory Committee. We were privileged that individuals with a wide range of expertise, from youth health and development to survey and qualitative approaches and ethics in research, agreed to serve as technical committee members. Our technical advisory group—Shalini Bharat, P.M. Kulkarni, Arvind Pandey, Pertti Pelto, T.K. Roy and Leela Visaria—supported the project from conceptualisation to completion. Their guidance at all stages of the study was central in enabling us to confront methodological, ethical and analytical challenges that arose over the course of the study and is gratefully acknowledged. We would like to record our deep appreciation, moreover, to P.M. Kulkarni for giving us so generously of his time in working through problems encountered during the design and implementation phases.

Several specialist group meetings were held over the course of the project that focused on study design, instrument development, qualitative component development and analysis, tabulation planning and report review;; several others who did not attend these meetings provided extensive comments on one or more of these issues. We are grateful to all these specialists—Dinesh Agarwal, Mallika Alexander, John Cleland, Nimesh Desai, Lalit Deshpande, Sudha Deshpande, Kamla Gupta, M.E. Khan, Sumati Kulkarni, Shiva Kumar, Cynthia Lloyd, S. Niranjan, Sulabha Parasuraman, Vikram Patel and Sunayana Walia—for their valuable contribution. John Cleland provided inputs at almost every phase of this study—design, instrument development and analysis—and his thought-provoking suggestions are gratefully acknowledged. In particular, we would like to acknowledge our external peer reviewers, P.M. Kulkarni and Leela Visaria, for their thoughtful and careful assessments of an earlier draft of this report.

Given that our study probed a number of highly sensitive matters, including young people's sexual and reproductive behaviours, it was an ethical imperative that those in need of information or services would be provided appropriate materials and referrals, respectively. We are grateful to those who provided services to our respondents in need and would like to acknowledge the TARSHI (New Delhi) whose materials (*Neeli Kitab*) were distributed to the young men and women during the survey.

The Office of the Registrar General, New Delhi and the State Census Office, Bihar generously provided the project with information and maps pertaining to the 2001 Census. Their role in enabling the study to implement its sample design is gratefully acknowledged.

We would like to express our appreciation and gratitude to the International Institute for Population Sciences and the Population Council and all their staff members who helped in small and big ways in making this report possible. T.K. Roy and the late P.N. Mari Bhat as Directors of the International Institute for Population Sciences, and G. Rama Rao and S. Lahiri as officiating Directors, oversaw the activities of the project from the Institute's perspective. Saroj Pachauri, Regional Director, South and East Asia Office, Population Council oversaw the project on behalf of the Population Council. Their insight and supervision are gratefully acknowledged.

A number of research officers, consultants and administrative staff members, both at the International Institute for Population Sciences, Mumbai, and at the Population Council, New Delhi, contributed to the smooth implementation of the study as well as the data management, analysis and report writing phases. We would like to thank those responsible for the administrative aspects of this project. At the International Institute for Population Sciences, we would like to acknowledge the Registrar, Accounts Officer, Computer Centre In-Charge and Library In-Charge; and Jeba Kumar, Pranita H. Dalvi , Usha D. Sonawane, Seema Jadhav and Avadesh Kumar who were responsible for the smooth functioning of the project. From the Population Council, we are grateful to Komal Saxena, M.A. Jose, Anil Paul and Ashutosh Mishra who ably managed the administrative, financial and IT aspects of the project. We are grateful to our Senior Research Officers, Research Officers and

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We would also like to acknowledge with thanks the contribution of our team of young and enthusiastic interviewers in eliciting information on difficult topics with sensitivity and skill. They were required to overcome discomfort when asking about intimate experiences and were required to record many disturbing experiences narrated by youth, which they did professionally and empathetically. It was due to their skill and ability to engage with youth in non-judgmental ways that this study was so well received by youth in Bihar.

We would also like to record our appreciation of the support and kindness of the people in the villages and urban neighbourhoods in which we conducted our study, and specifically *panchayat* members and community leaders. While initially sceptical about the study, community members opened their homes to us and acknowledged the importance of this study for the health and development of future generations. Indeed, despite the sensitive issues covered, not a single study community refused our field teams entry. The trust and support of the people are gratefully acknowledged.

Finally, and most importantly, we would like to thank the young women and men from Bihar who welcomed us, generously gave of their time and shared so many intimate details of their lives with us. We hope that the evidence generated in this report will be useful in influencing the design and content of programmes intended to meet their multiple needs and enable them to make a safe transition to adulthood.

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Executive summary

The *Youth in India: Situation and Needs* Study (referred to as the Youth Study), implemented by the International Institute for Population Sciences, Mumbai and the Population Council, New Delhi is the first-ever sub-nationally representative study conducted to identify key transitions experienced by married and unmarried youth in India. Young people (aged 10–24) constituted almost 315 million and represented 31% of the Indian population in 2001. Not only does this cohort represent India's future in the socio-economic and political realms, but its experiences will largely determine India's achievement of its goal of population stabilisation and the extent to which the nation will be able to harness its demographic dividend. While today's youth are healthier, more urbanised and better educated than earlier generations, social and economic vulnerabilities persist. In the course of the transition to adulthood young people face significant risks related to sexual and reproductive health, and many lack the knowledge and power to make informed sexual and reproductive choices.

In recognition of the importance of investing in young people, several national policies and programmes formulated since 2000, including the National Population Policy 2000, the National Youth Policy 2003, the Tenth and Eleventh Five-Year Plans, the National Adolescent Reproductive and Sexual Health Strategy and the National Rural Health Mission, have underscored a commitment to addressing the multiple needs of this group in India. Effective implementation of both policies and programmes, however, has been handicapped by the lack of evidence on young people's situation and needs. Currently available evidence is limited, at best, and comes largely from small-scale and unrepresentative studies.

The Youth Study focused on married and unmarried young women and unmarried young men aged 15–24 and, because of the paucity of married young men in the younger ages, married men aged 15–29 in both rural and urban settings. It collected information pertaining to key transitions experienced by youth, including those related to education, work participation, sexual activity, marriage, health and civic participation; the magnitude and patterns of young people's sexual and reproductive practices within and outside of marriage as well as related knowledge, decision-making and attitudes.

The Youth Study comprised three phases, and included both a survey and qualitative data gathering exercises prior to and after the survey. The study was conducted in a phased manner in six states of India: Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand, Maharashtra, Rajasthan and Tamil Nadu.

This report focuses on findings from the survey conducted in Bihar. The survey was undertaken between January and August 2007. During the survey, 9,684 young people were contacted, of which a total of 8,136 married and unmarried young women and men were successfully interviewed.

Characteristics of the household population

A total of 30,888 households were selected for interview. Among these, interviews were successfully completed in 28,205 sample households, and 156,197 individuals, who were usual residents in these households, were enumerated. The age distribution was typical of a high fertility population, with a larger proportion of the population in the younger age groups than in other age groups. Indeed, the virtually identical proportions of the population aged 0–4 observed in both the 2001 census and the Youth Study suggest unchanging levels of fertility. With regard to the youth population, the distribution suggests that at the time of the survey, 13% of the population was aged 10–14 years, 9% was aged 15–19 years and 7% was aged 20–24 years. A total of 16.5% of the population was aged 15–24 years.

Overall, the sex ratio of the *de jure* population of the state was 1,043 females per 1,000 males, considerably higher than that observed in the 2001 Census (919); a finding that may be attributed to increased employment-related out-migration of single young men in the state. The child sex ratio of the state stood at 935 females per 1,000 males aged 0–6, close to that reported in the 2001 Census (942).

The educational profile of the household population highlights low levels of educational attainment in the state: over half (52%) of the population aged 6 years and above had no formal education. Notably, as many as 65% of females compared to 40% of males, and as many as 55% of the rural population compared to 30% of the urban population had never been to school. Findings also indicate that just 6% of the total population had received 12 or more years of education, thus reaffirming the low levels of educational attainment in the state.

Housing characteristics of the surveyed population underscore poor living conditions among the majority of the state's population. Overall, 53% of all households lived in *kachcha* houses (constructed from mud, thatch or other low-quality materials), 25% lived in semi-*pucca* houses (constructed using a mix of low- and high-quality materials) and 22% lived in *pucca* houses (constructed entirely from cement, masonry or other high-quality materials). Only 14% of households had electricity, including 71% of urban households and 9% of rural households. The vast majority of households (93%) reported that their main source of drinking water was either piped water, water obtained from a hand-pump or a covered well. Access to a toilet facility of any kind was reported by just one-sixth of all households.

The distribution of households by wealth quintiles shows a stark rural-urban divide: two-thirds of urban households were in the wealthiest (fifth) quintile; in contrast, only one-sixth of rural households were in this quintile. Likewise, one-fifth of rural households were in the poorest (first) quintile of the index compared to only 3% of urban households.

Situation of youth

As mentioned earlier, a total of 8,136 youth were interviewed. Age profiles suggest that larger proportions of young men and women were concentrated in the 15–19 year age group than in the 20–24 year age group (60–62% compared to 38–40%). Moreover, the unmarried were clearly younger than the married. Religious distributions show that 86% of youth were Hindu and 14% were Muslim. Caste-wise distributions show that 14–20% of youth belonged to general castes, 20–21% to scheduled castes and 58–64% to other backward castes. About four in five youth reported that both parents were surviving. For those with just one parent surviving, this parent was more likely to be the mother (9–10%) than the father (5–6%). Finally, 1–2% reported that neither parent was alive.

Education

While youth were better educated than the population at large in Bihar, schooling was far from universal among them. As many as one in six young men and half of young women had never attended school. Findings show, moreover, that young women in rural areas and married young women in general were particularly disadvantaged; over half of rural young women and almost two-thirds of married young women had never been to school. Leading reasons for never attending school among young men and women were economic (child required for work on the family farm/business or for outside wage earning work, or the family could not afford school-related expenses) and attitudes and perceptions (such as, that education was not necessary or that children were not interested). Housework-related reasons (required for care of siblings or housework) were additionally an important reason inhibiting young women from being enrolled in school.

Not only was school enrolment limited, but school completion rates were also low among young people. Findings show that of those who had completed Class 1, declines in class completion took place as early as Class 3; only 95% and 93% of young men and women, respectively, who had completed one year of schooling had gone on to complete Class 3. Declines in class completion became progressively steeper as the level of schooling increased, with differences between young men and women widening as the level of schooling increased. For example, notable declines occurred between Classes 5 and 6, suggesting that many youth discontinued their education even without completing elementary education. Indeed, just 30% of young men and 13% of young women had completed high school in the state.

What is notable is that, at the time of interview, over half of unmarried young men and fewer than half of unmarried young women (and very few married) were still in school or college.

Economic issues and negative attitudes and perceptions about the importance or relevance of education were leading reasons for discontinuation, irrespective of the level at which schooling was discontinued. Among young women, such factors as school-related factors (academic failure, distance to school, poor school quality and infrastructure) and housework responsibilities were also leading factors behind discontinuation at all levels, and transition to adult roles became increasingly important reasons as the level at which schooling was discontinued increased. Of note, particularly, is that almost one in four and two in five married young women who discontinued schooling at primary and high school levels, respectively, reported doing so in order to marry.

The gender divide observed in school enrolment, attendance and reasons for discontinuation was evident even in the type of educational facility that youth attended. While young men by and large attended co-educational facilities at all levels of education, young women were less likely to attend a co-educational facility at higher levels of schooling. Similar gender differences were evident in terms of additional investment in schooling made, particularly in terms of private tuition; for example, more young men than women reported that they had taken private tuition, especially among those who were attending a school/college at the time of the interview.

The majority of youth at all levels attended government schools or colleges. Moreover, no apparent gender differences were observed in terms of the type of school—government or private—in which youth were enrolled.

Findings also show that amenities available within the educational facility attended differed vastly between youth who were still in school and those who had discontinued their education. For example, youth still studying were more likely to report the availability of water, toilets, playgrounds and libraries than were those

who had discontinued. Schooling experiences also differed somewhat among those who had discontinued schooling and those who were studying at the time of the interview. While regular attendance did not differ much, youth who were continuing their education were considerably more likely to report private tuition, somewhat less likely to perceive academic workload to be heavy and more likely to have passed the last examination for which they had appeared.

Work

Work profiles suggest that three-quarters of young men and about one-half of young women had ever engaged in paid or unpaid work. Indeed, almost all married young men and two-thirds of unmarried young men had done so, compared with over half and about two-fifths of married and unmarried young women, respectively. Likewise, larger proportions of youth in rural than urban areas had ever worked. While the majority of youth were engaged in paid work, considerable proportions of young men (38%) and women (25%) reported unpaid work on the family farm or business. Economic activity was often initiated at an early age: over one in three young men and women reported initiating work as children (before age 15). Data on work participation in the 12 months prior to the interview indicate that the majority of young men (64% of the unmarried and 97% of the married) and a substantial proportion of young women (36% and 38%, respectively) had engaged in paid or unpaid work at some point in the 12 months preceding the survey. The majority of young men (64%) who worked in the year prior to the interview had done so for the major part (at least six months) of the year. In contrast among young women, over two-fifths had done so.

Findings also show substantial levels of unemployment among young men (22%) and women (36%). Unemployment tended to be considerably higher among unmarried than married young men; but roughly similar among married and unmarried young women. Findings also indicate that unemployment was particularly high among young women in urban areas, particularly the married. Unemployment was also exceptionally high among the educated and economically better off.

Youth were clearly interested in acquiring skills that would enable employment generation; two in three young men and four in five young women reported interest in vocational skills training. Although more unmarried than married youth expressed interest in attending vocational training programmes, it is notable that over half of married men and three-quarters of married women were interested in developing vocational skills. However, far fewer—just 14% of young men and 9% of young women—had attended even one vocational training programme.

Media exposure

Large proportions of youth were exposed to the media, typically newspapers, magazines or books (89% of young men and 81% of young women with five or more years of education), films (89% of all young men and 59% of all young women) and television (78% of all young men and 48% of all young women). Exposure to the internet was reported by many fewer (6% of young men and 3% of young women with five or more years of education).

Findings also suggest that one in four young men and 4% of young women watched pornographic films, and of these, about two-fifths reported having viewed such films sometimes or frequently. One in five young men and 6% of young women accessed pornographic books and magazines, and of these, one-third of young men and half of young women reported that they accessed these materials sometimes or frequently. Of those exposed to the internet, one in three young men and one in ten young women had accessed pornographic

materials on the internet. Finally, between half and three-fifths of young men and women acknowledged the influence that media have on youth behaviours.

Socialisation experiences and communication with parents

Findings suggest the gendered nature of socialisation of youth. For example, responses from both young men and women indicate that unequal gender norms regarding freedom of movement prevailed in most study households, with three-fifths of young men acknowledging that they had more freedom to go out than their sisters or female cousins did, and almost four-fifths of young women agreeing that they had less freedom to go out than their brothers or male cousins. Moreover, although most young men's responses to questions related to housework expectations suggest a gender equal socialisation experience, it is notable that about three-quarters of young women reported that they were expected to do more housework than their brothers or male cousins. Likewise, while parents appeared to control both young men's and women's social interactions, particularly those involving members of the opposite sex, young women were more likely than young men to experience such restrictions. For example, 79–80% of young men and 97% of young women reported expecting parental disapproval if they brought an opposite-sex friend to their home.

Nonetheless, it is notable that while young women were brought up with more restrictions, parents appeared to place considerable restrictions on young men's interactions as well, including with same-sex peers.

Findings regarding communication with parents on issues relevant to youth—such as school performance, friendships, being teased or bullied, physical maturation, romantic relationships and reproductive processes—reiterate those from other studies, showing that such communication was far from universal. Moreover, sensitive topics—such as romantic relationships, reproduction and contraception, among all youth, and even adolescent body change issues among young men—were rarely discussed with either parent.

That parent-child communication was restricted was also evident from responses to questions probing the most likely confidante on a range of topics from taking a job to boy-girl relationships. While parents were mentioned as leading confidantes on non-sensitive topics such as taking a job, they were rarely cited as leading confidantes on more sensitive matters. While young women identified their mothers as the most likely confidante on such matters as menstrual problems and experience of teasing, young men rarely identified a parent as a leading confidante on matters relating to nocturnal emission or *swapnadosh*. And neither young men nor women identified a parent as a leading confidante on boy-girl matters.

Young people's family lives were marked by violence, both experienced and witnessed. One in five youth had observed their fathers beating their mothers. Many respondents reported experiencing beating by a parent during adolescence; over half of young men and 11% of young women reported such experiences.

Peer networks and interaction

Growing up was associated with close peer networks. Almost all youth reported having same-sex friends. Opposite-sex peer networks were less common but nonetheless reported by 16% of young men and 5% of young women. Interaction with friends tended to be restricted to activities such as chatting and engaging in sports, although young men did tend to report studying and going on picnics or to films. Indeed, findings suggest that youth derived an important measure of support from their peer networks on sensitive matters: friends were by far the leading confidante on boy-girl relationships for both young men and women and on nocturnal emission for young men.

Agency and gender roles

Findings clearly highlight young women's extremely limited agency. For example, just one in four young women reported independent decision-making on all three issues explored in the survey, namely, decisions on choice of friends, spending money and purchase of clothes. Likewise, freedom of movement even within the village or neighbourhood was not universal among young women; only about two in three young women had the freedom to visit locations within their own village or neighbourhood unescorted. Moreover, just one in ten young women reported having the freedom to visit at least one place outside the village or neighbourhood and a health facility unescorted. Access to and control over financial resources tended to be limited among young women; just over two in five reported some savings and one in twenty owned a bank or post office savings account. Of those who owned an account, about two-fifths operated it themselves.

Also notable from the findings is the striking gender divide in all these dimensions of young people's agency. Young women were far more disadvantaged than young men in terms of decision-making autonomy and mobility. Likewise, although young women were more likely than young men to have money saved (44% and 20%, respectively), they were less likely than young men to own a bank or post office savings account (5% and 11%) and to operate these accounts themselves (38% and 77% of those who had an account).

While young men were clearly not as disadvantaged as young women, findings indicate that many young men were unable to exercise agency in their everyday lives. For example, only 46% of young men reported independent decision-making on all three issues explored in the survey. Similarly, young men's mobility was far from universal; for example, just 48–56% unmarried young men were allowed to visit a place of entertainment or to attend a programme conducted outside their village or neighbourhood unescorted, and two in three were allowed to visit a health facility unescorted.

Although over two-fifths of young men and about three-fifths of young women justified wife beating in at least one situation, relatively large proportions of youth espoused egalitarian gender role attitudes on other issues explored. Even so, it is notable that young men were consistently more likely than young women to report unequal gender role attitudes on these issues.

Awareness of sexual and reproductive health matters

Findings underscore young people's extremely limited awareness of most sexual and reproductive matters, ranging from how pregnancy occurs to contraception, HIV and safe sex practices. For example, just 27–33% of youth were even aware that a woman can get pregnant at first sex. Just 87% of young men and 47% of young women had ever heard of HIV/AIDS and many fewer—11–12% of youth—reported awareness of STIs other than HIV/AIDS. Even on topics about which young people were generally aware, awareness was far from universal. For example, only 72% of young men and 58% of young women knew that 18 years was the legal minimum age at marriage for females. Findings also show that misconceptions about sexual and reproductive health topics were common. For example, two in five youth believed that a woman has to bleed at first sexual intercourse. Likewise, 5–9% of youth reported that condoms can disappear into the woman's body and 62–66% of youth reported that they were unsure about the issue.

Findings, moreover, show that in-depth understanding was limited even on topics about which young people were generally aware. For example, while 93–99% reported awareness of at least one contraceptive method, in-depth awareness of condoms and oral contraceptives, the methods most familiar to youth, was reported by just 62% and 26% of young men and 30% and 48% of young women, respectively. Likewise, while 87% of young men and 47% of young women had heard of HIV, only 28% of young men and 15% of young women were fully aware of HIV and its transmission routes.

Not surprisingly, youth reported few reliable sources of information about sexual matters or contraception. Indeed, 16% of young men and 44% of young women reported that they had never received any information on sexual matters (prior to marriage among the married). Friends and the media were leading sources of information on both issues for both young men and women. Neither of these is necessarily a reliable source of information. For young women, in addition, family members were a leading source of information; they were rarely cited as a source of information by young men. Fewer than 6% of unmarried and hardly any married youth cited teachers as sources of information on sexual matters or contraception. Health care providers were important sources of information on contraception just for married young men; they were far less likely to have provided information to the unmarried and even to married young women. In short, health care providers, teachers and family members—often assumed to be a more reliable source of information than peers or the media—were infrequently and inconsistently cited as sources of information on sensitive topics such as sexual matters and contraception by young people.

Few youth had attended family life or sex education programmes either in or outside the school setting—just 7% of young men and 3% of young women. Despite this, youth were overwhelmingly in favour of the provision of family life or sex education to young people; while young men preferred to receive this education from a professional (health care provider, teacher and so on), young women preferred to obtain this education from parents or siblings. Findings suggest, moreover, that youth who had undergone family life or sex education were indeed more knowledgeable about sexual and reproductive matters than those not exposed to this education.

Pre-marital romantic relations

Findings confirm that despite norms prohibiting pre-marital opposite-sex mixing, opportunities do exist for the formation of pre-marital romantic relations. Indeed, significant minorities of young men and women had received or made a "proposal" for a romantic relationship (20% of young men and 12% of young women), and had been involved in a romantic partnership (17% of young men and 5% of young women). Patterns of pre-marital romantic partnerships suggest that where partnerships occurred, they were initiated at an early age and were usually hidden from parents but not from peers. Notable disparities in expectations of a longer-term commitment emerged that show that young women were considerably more likely than young men to have expected a romantic relationship to lead to marriage. However, the experiences of the married suggest a disconnect between intentions and reality: while 47% and 84% of married young men and women, respectively, reported the intention to marry their pre-marital partner, just 4% of young men and 38% of young women had done so.

There was a clear progression in reported physical intimacy and sexual experience with romantic partners. For example, while 87% of young men had held hands with a romantic partner, two-fifths had engaged in sexual relations. Among young women, while 70% had held hands with a romantic partner, almost one-third had engaged in sexual relations with this partner. Partner communication and negotiation regarding safe sex were rare, and the vast majority had engaged in unprotected sex. Over one in five young women who had engaged in sexual relations with a romantic partner reported that their opposite-sex romantic partner had forced them to engage in sex the first time.

Pre-marital sexual experiences in romantic and other relationships

One in seven (14%) young men and 3% of young women reported the experience of pre-marital sex within romantic and/or other partnerships. In general, first pre-marital sex took place earlier among young men

than young women, and among rural than urban youth. Moreover, initiation into pre-marital sexual activity increased as young people transitioned from early to late adolescence and further as they transitioned into young adulthood.

While sex with a romantic partner characterised pre-marital experiences for many of the sexually experienced, findings suggest that young men, but not young women, also engaged in sex in other contexts; other partners reported by young men included, mainly, sex workers, married women and casual partners. Many of the pre-marital sexual experiences reported by youth were risky, for example, one-fifth of young men and one-quarter of young women reporting pre-marital sex had engaged in sex with more than one partner. Moreover, consistent condom use was extremely limited—only 6% of young men and 2% of young women reported condom use in all pre-marital encounters reported.

We acknowledge that youth, especially young women, may not report sexual experience in a survey situation. Hence, the Youth Study supplemented a series of direct questions with an opportunity to report sexual experience in an anonymous format. In total, direct questioning supplemented by self-reporting in an anonymous format provided considerably higher estimates of sexual experience among young men than did face-to-face questioning alone or anonymous third-party reporting of peer behaviours among young men. However among young women, anonymous third-party reporting provided slightly higher estimates than self-reports.

Transition to marriage and early married life

Findings indicate that while most young men preferred to marry in young adulthood, almost one-quarter of young women preferred to marry before 18 years and as many as three-fifths preferred to marry before age 20, indicating an adherence to social norms around early marriage even by youth. Reiterating the fact that early marriage continues to characterise the lives of many young women and to a certain extent the lives of young men as well, findings show that as many as 46% of young women aged 20–24 years were married before age 15, 77% before age 18 and 87% before age 20. Even though early marriage was less prevalent among young men, 13% of those aged 20–24 years were married before age 18 and 31% before age 20.

Not only did marriage occur at young ages but it was also often arranged without the participation of the young people themselves, particularly young women. Almost all youth reported arranged marriages. As many as one in ten young men and over two in five young women reported that their parents did not seek their approval while determining their marriage partners. Hence, not surprisingly, reported pre-marital acquaintance was extremely limited. Just 4–7% of youth reported that they had ever had a chance to meet and interact with their spouse-to-be alone prior to marriage. Over 90% of married youth reported that they had met their spouses for the first time on the wedding day. Compounding the lack of pre-marital acquaintance was the lack of awareness of what to expect of married life, reported by over three-fifths of young men and four-fifths of young women.

Dowry characterised the marriages of two-thirds of young men and women, in spite of the existence of laws against dowry. Findings also show that families of urban youth appeared no less likely to conform to traditional practices, such as payment of dowry, than their rural counterparts.

Reports of marital life suggest that although spousal communication was reported on several issues, it was far from universal, and that marital life was marked by violence for large proportions of women. For example, couple communication on most topics was reported by over three in four young men and women, yet communication on contraceptive use was reported by somewhat fewer (72% of young women and 38%

of young men), clearly undermining married young people's ability to adopt protective actions. Physical violence and forced sex within marriage were reported by considerable proportions of youth. For example, 30% of young women reported that they had ever faced violence perpetrated by the husband and a similar percentage of young men reported perpetrating violence on their wives. Recent violence was likewise reported by one-quarter of young women and one-fifth of young men. Sexual violence was widespread. Indeed, 49% of young women reported that their first sexual experience within marriage had been forced. Overall, over half of young women (54%) reported ever being forced to engage in sex with their husbands; as many as one in four young men reported forcing their wives to engage in sex. Recent sexual violence was reported by one in four young women and one in ten young men.

While the Youth Study did not explore extra-marital sexual experiences in detail, the available data indicate that 4% of young men reported an extra-marital sexual encounter. In contrast, hardly any young women reported an extra-marital sexual encounter.

Contraceptive practice and pregnancy experience

Contraceptive use at any time within marriage was limited, reported by 23% of young men and 20% of young women. Moreover, just 12% of young men and women reported current use of contraception. Among contraceptive methods currently used, condoms and female sterilisation were most likely to be reported. Few young people practised contraception to delay the first birth—just 8% of young men and 4% of young women. Not surprisingly, pregnancy typically occurred within a year of marriage for almost two-fifths of young women and half of young men who reported that they or their wives had been pregnant at least once. Moreover, large proportions of youth reported experiencing unintended pregnancy. For example, of those women who were not pregnant at the time of the interview and of those men whose wives were not pregnant at the time of the interview, 33% of young women and 23% of young men reported that the last pregnancy was mistimed or unwanted.

Circumstances of the first birth suggest that institutional delivery and skilled attendance at delivery were extremely limited: only 23–25% of first births were delivered institutionally and 35–42% reported delivery by a skilled attendant.

Findings also show that although most youth wanted one child of each sex, son preference was evident. Over one-third of young men and over two-fifths of young women preferred to have more sons than daughters. In contrast, just 2–4% preferred to have more daughters than sons.

Substance use

Findings show that substantial proportions of young men reported the consumption of tobacco and alcohol; two-fifths of young men reported tobacco consumption and one-sixth reported alcohol consumption. Drug use was reported by less than 2% of young men. Few young women reported that they consumed any of these substances.

Health seeking behaviour

Although youth is a generally healthy period of life, significant minorities reported experiencing general, mental, and sexual and reproductive health problems in the period preceding the interview. Over one-quarter of youth had experienced high fever, and 8% of young men and 22% of young women reported

the experience of symptoms of genital infection in the three months preceding the interview. Moreover, 11% of young women reported menstrual problems; at the same time, one-fifth of young men reported anxiety about nocturnal emission. Finally, responses indicative of mental disorders were reported by 16% of young men and 9% of young women.

As far as care seeking for general and sexual and reproductive health problems was concerned, patterns varied by type of problem. While the large majority of those experiencing high fever sought care, many fewer sought care for sexual and reproductive health problems. Findings also show that care seeking for health problems tended to be more limited among young women than men, irrespective of the type of problem experienced. Of those who sought treatment, the majority sought advice or treatment from a private facility or provider, irrespective of the type of problem. However, it is notable that over one-quarter of youth who sought care for genital infections or menstrual problems used home remedies or the services of traditional or untrained providers. In the case of anxiety about nocturnal emission, the majority of young men preferred to seek advice from peers.

Findings suggest that youth were uncomfortable about seeking sexual and reproductive health services. For example, many youth—more women than men—reported that they would indeed find it difficult to approach a health care provider or a pharmacy/medical shop for contraceptives.

Finally, small minorities (1–2%) reported that they had undergone HIV testing. Youth were, however, overwhelmingly in favour of pre-marital HIV testing.

Participation in civil society and political life

Findings highlight extremely limited participation by youth in civil society. Although a number of programmes are held to build youth skills, very few youth (8–15%) reported familiarity with either government or NGO-sponsored programmes organised at the community level in which youth could participate. Even fewer youth—7% of young men and 2% of young women—reported participating in any such programme. Almost one-quarter of young men (23%) and 4% of young women reported that they had participated in community-sponsored programmes such as cleanliness drives, celebration of festivals and national days, and so on. Finally, just 8% of young men and 2% of young women reported membership in organised groups.

Participation in political processes was also far from universal. Among those eligible to vote, 65% of young men and 51% of young women had cast their votes in the most recent election. Four-fifths of youth perceived that one could vote freely and without fear and pressure. However, large proportions of youth, particularly young men—69% of young men and 35% of young women—reported disillusionment with the commitment of political parties to work for change at the community level.

Expressions of secular attitudes varied. Over 90% of young men and over 80% of young women reported that they mixed freely with individuals of different religions and castes. However, only 64% of young men and 38% of young women would eat together with a person of a different caste or religion, just 35% of young men and 46% of young women would talk to a person who has had an inter-caste marriage and only 32% of young men and 42% of young women agreed that it was best to tolerate rather than punish someone who had shown disrespect towards their religion.

Considerable proportions of young men and women acknowledged that physical fights among young men and also among young women did occur in their villages or urban neighbourhoods; one in seven young men and 4% of young women reported that they had been involved in a physical fight in the year preceding the interview.

The four leading problems facing youth expressed by both young men and women were unemployment, poverty, lack of amenities and lack of educational opportunities. However, young people's perceptions of the leading problems facing youth varied enormously by sex. Among young men, the majority reported difficulty in finding employment as the leading problem, followed by concerns about poverty, lack of educational opportunities and lack of amenities or infrastructure. In contrast, the leading problem expressed by young women was lack of amenities and infrastructure, and to a lesser extent, poverty, lack of opportunities for education and difficulty in finding employment.

Recommendations for programmes

Findings presented above underscore the fact that youth face numerous challenges while making the transition to adulthood. These challenges call for multiple areas for programme intervention at the youth, family and service delivery levels. Key recommendations emerging from the present study are outlined below.

Strengthen efforts to achieve universal school enrolment and at least primary school completion

Youth Study findings that primary school enrolment is far from universal even among the youth cohort call for concerted efforts to achieve universal enrolment of children in school. Moreover, findings suggesting substantial declines in school attendance even at the primary level and relatively low rates of primary school completion emphasize in no uncertain terms that rigorous efforts are needed in order that the state meets the Millennium Development Goal of ensuring universal primary school completion.

While achieving universal enrolment and primary school attainment are key shorter-term goals, the importance of high school education in enabling youth to make a successful transition to adulthood underscores the need, at the same time, for efforts to overcome barriers to high school completion.

A number of factors have been identified in the Youth Study that inhibit school enrolment and primary school completion; leading among these are economic reasons, attitudes and perceptions of youth and their parents, as well as housework responsibilities among young women. Multiple activities are needed to address these barriers. Efforts must be made, for example, to address the economic pressures that dissuade parents from enrolling their children in school in the first place or from keeping them in school once enrolled. Conditional grants and targeted subsidies that encourage school enrolment and completion among disadvantaged groups need to be considered. At the same time, activities directed at parents are needed that promote positive attitudes towards education and school completion, raise aspirations for the education of their children and encourage greater parental involvement in their children's education.

Activities must also address school-level barriers, notably, distance to school, poor infrastructure and poor quality of education, significant motivating factors behind discontinuation particularly among young women. The state government has launched some schemes to address some of these barriers (see for example the bicycle scheme for girls); it is important that the effectiveness of such schemes is evaluated and promising lessons are assimilated and scaled up.

There is also a need to incorporate livelihood skills building models within the school setting that provide opportunities for those in school to gain market-driven job skills and also expand young people's aspirations regarding their education and careers. Moreover, investments are needed that focus on providing better training and ensuring accountability for teachers and thereby improving the quality of the schooling experience. Finally, given the large proportions reporting that schooling had been interrupted because they were required for

work on the family farm or business or for housework, and given the reality of young people's lives and the economic pressures on families, efforts need to be made to adjust school timings, including establishment of evening schools to enable children to accommodate work on the family farm or business without sacrificing their education.

Findings indicating transition to adult roles, particularly early marriage, as an important reason for school discontinuation—even as early as primary school—among girls, emphasise the fact that programmatic commitments outside the education sector are also critical to the achievement of universal school enrolment and completion. Specifically required are programmes that seek to critically examine norms and practices surrounding marriage and to eliminate the practice of early marriage. Explorations of subsidies and cash transfers that link school retention and delayed marriage among girls are needed.

The stark gender divide and rural-urban divide observed in school enrolment and attendance call for efforts that specifically target female children and rural children in general. Moreover, findings suggest that married young women remain considerably disadvantaged. Interventions are needed that give married young women a second chance to obtain a basic education.

Invest in promoting youth employment

Findings of the Youth Study that considerable proportions of youth had initiated work in childhood reiterate the recommendation highlighted above regarding the need to provide conditional grants and targeted subsidies to disadvantaged groups, which would encourage parents to opt for schooling over work for their children.

Findings have pointed to the effective unemployability of youth. For example, few youth had completed primary or high school and even fewer had attended a single vocational training programme. Moreover, considerable proportions of youth, particularly the educated, were unemployed. Clearly, the state must strengthen significantly its investments in programmes to enable youth to make successful transitions into work roles, including provision of soft loans for youth to set up their own enterprises. At the same time, efforts are needed that evaluate existing programmes, upscale successful models and raise awareness among youth about their availability. While enhancing employability will depend to a considerable degree on improvements in educational attainment discussed above, it will also require greater investment in enabling youth to acquire vocational skills. Formal mechanisms must be developed that provide opportunities to youth to acquire vocational skills for which there is an established market demand, and that link eligible youth to market opportunities. These efforts, through various livelihood schemes, must promote self-employment and entrepreneurship among young people.

Findings also suggest the need for a special focus on young women. Significant proportions of young women currently engaged in economic activities had done so only part-time and worked largely in agricultural activities. In addition, many young women were seeking employment at the time of the interview. These findings highlight the need for specially targeted programmes for young women.

Promote youth agency and gender equitable norms among youth

Findings presented in this report highlight the persistence of gender double standards and extremely limited agency of young women. Stark gender differences were evident in school enrolment, attendance and completion, participation in the labour market, exposure to mass media, parental control of adolescent's mobility and interactions with peers, exercise of choice in matters affecting young people's lives, freedom of movement

and access to resources. Gender equitable norms were not universally expressed; young women were more likely to express equitable gender role attitudes than young men, but were also more likely than young men to justify wife beating. These findings call for multi-pronged interventions to promote gender equitable norms and practices that are directed at young women, young men, their families, communities, and educational, labour and health systems.

A programme priority is to promote life skills education programmes for young women, both unmarried and married, that will not only raise their awareness of new ideas and the world around them but also enable them to put information into practice, encourage them to question gender stereotypes, develop self-esteem and strengthen their abilities in problems-solving, decision-making, communication and inter-personal relations and negotiations. Safe spaces should be identified in which young women can build social networks and find social support among peers.

Interventions intended to build life skills must also be inclusive of young men. Indeed, findings indicate that inegalitarian gender role attitudes were expressed by many young men. Moreover, while young men were clearly not as disadvantaged as young women, findings indicate that many young men were not able to exercise agency in their everyday lives. These findings call for life skills education programmes for young men that promote new concepts of masculinity and femininity among youth and at the same time, promote messages that build egalitarian relations between women and men.

Promoting gender equitable norms and practices requires active engagement with the community. It is essential that programmes for youth work with key community members, such as parents, political and religious leaders in the community, to critically examine prevailing gender norms and forces that perpetuate such norms.

An increasing number of intervention models to build agency and promote egalitarian gender role attitudes among young people have been tested in India. These models should be reviewed and replicated or scaled up as appropriate.

Provide opportunities for formal saving, especially for young women

Findings suggest that while young women were more likely than young men to report savings, few youth, irrespective of sex, owned a savings account. Among those who did own an account, young women were far less likely than young men to operate the account independently. Programmes are needed that inculcate a savings orientation among both young men and young women, that offer savings products that are attractive and appropriate to the small and erratic savings patterns of young people and that enable young women in particular to overcome obstacles related to owning and controlling savings products.

Promote youth participation in civil society and political processes and reinforce secular attitudes

Findings suggest that for many youth, opportunities to engage in civic and political life are limited and secular attitudes are not uniformly expressed. Programmes are needed—at the school, college and community levels, through national service programmes, sports and other non-formal mechanisms—that encourage civic participation, incorporate value building components and reinforce secular attitudes and values that espouse responsible citizenship.

Provide family life or sex education for those in school and out of school

Youth Study findings provide considerable evidence suggesting that family life or sex education is urgently needed among youth, both for those in school and those who have discontinued their education. Findings demonstrate extremely limited understanding of sexual and reproductive matters among young people, including the married. Misconceptions abound on most topics: sex and pregnancy, contraceptive methods including condoms, STIs and HIV/AIDS and the conditions under which abortion is legally available or restricted. And knowledge of STIs is far more limited than knowledge of HIV/AIDS. Where awareness of sexual and reproductive health matters exists, it is typically superficial.

Youth themselves have called for family life or sex education. Findings highlight that large proportions recognised the need for information on these issues, and indicated a preference for receiving this education from teachers, health care providers or parents. However, few young people had been exposed to family life or sex education. Substantial proportions of married young women and young men reported entering marriage completely unaware of what it entailed. At the same time, substantial minorities of young people had engaged in sexual risk taking.

There is clearly a pressing rationale for school-based family life or sex education for those in school and community-based expert-led education for those out of school. These programmes should be age-appropriate and provide information on sexual and reproductive matters and sexual and reproductive rights; about pregnancy as well as the causes, transmission routes and prevention of infection. However, they should be designed not only to raise awareness among youth but also to enable young people to correctly understand and assess the risks they face and to adopt appropriate protective actions.

In view of the finding that the media are a major source of sexual and reproductive health information for youth, efforts must be made, at the same time, for communications initiatives that inform while entertaining youth about sexual and reproductive matters.

In addition, special attention needs to be paid to the training of trainers. Considerable proportions of youth who reported having received formal family life or sex education reported feeling uncomfortable or embarrassed in the course of family life or sex education. These findings raise questions about the extent to which they were indeed able to participate freely and clarify their doubts and at the same time, about the ability of trainers to connect with youth to whom they provided this education. Such findings clearly highlight the need for improving the quality of training imparted to trainers. It is important that teachers, health care providers and other experts undergo training that enables them to overcome their reluctance about communicating with youth on sensitive sexual and reproductive matters, that dispels their misconceptions on these matters, and that enhances their technical knowledge on sexual and reproductive issues.

Ensure that the transition to sexual life is safe and wanted

While for the vast majority of young women and men sexual activity is initiated within the context of marriage, findings show that significant minorities of youth, particularly young men had engaged in sex before marriage. As documented in this report, many youth had initiated sexual activity uninformed, which reiterates the need for providing family life or sex education to young people. Moreover, findings that for many, pre-marital sexual experiences were unsafe or unwanted calls for programmes that focus on building sexual and reproductive health awareness among young people as well as developing their skills in negotiating safe sex and communicating with their partners. At the same time, programmes must make available appropriate

family planning and infection prevention services for both married and unmarried young men and women in a manner acceptable to them.

Intensify efforts to eliminate the practice of early marriage

Findings indicate an adherence, even among youth, to the traditional social norms around child marriage and the practice of early marriage not only among young women but also, to a lesser extent, among young men in the state. These findings call for measures that go beyond information campaigns to address the social norms and economic factors driving early marriage and ensure the stricter enforcement of existing laws prohibiting early marriage in the state.

There is clearly a need for an intensified, multi-pronged approach to eliminate the practice of early marriage. Strategies are needed that mobilise communities to help parents resist pressures that foster the practice of early marriage. Strategies intended to evolve new norms and new practices should both actively engage influential persons in the community including religious and political leaders as well as implement campaigns highlighting the adverse consequences of early marriage, and how it is a violation of the rights of the child. Community mobilization efforts must involve youth themselves, their families, as well as influential persons in the community, including religious and political leaders.

Equally important is to ensure greater commitment on the part of law enforcement agencies to enforce existing laws on the minimum age at marriage and the registration of marriages, and to levy penalties for violators. Allowing anonymous reporting, working with the police and others to make clear that the practice of early marriage is not a minor violation, and making guidelines for penalties clear and transparent are some possible steps.

Efforts to delay marriage also require providing girls with meaningful and viable alternatives to early marriage. Advising families to send their daughters to school when schools are too far away, the classroom is hostile to girls, or education is of poor quality, will not work. Working with the education sector to make schooling for girls more accessible, and to make classrooms more gender-sensitive and responsive to the needs of young girls and the concerns of their parents is important. At the same time, it is necessary to make efforts to provide livelihoods training, within or outside the educational system.

Findings that marriages were often arranged without the participation of young people themselves and that few young people had an opportunity to meet their spouse-to-be prior to the wedding day call for actions to encourage parents to involve children in marriage-related decisions and enable them to interact with their prospective spouses prior to the wedding day. Parents must also be made aware of the physical and mental health dangers of early marriage and the adverse experiences of many young women (and some young men) who were married early or who were unprepared for marriage.

Enable married young women to exercise greater control over their lives

Findings on the multiple vulnerabilities faced by married young women underscore the need for programmes that support them, acknowledging that their situation and needs may differ from those of married adults. Married young women are notably isolated, have little decision-making authority and have few sources of support. They have limited communication with their husbands, and notable proportions have suffered physical and sexual violence perpetrated by their husbands.

Efforts are needed that address the health and empowerment needs of married young women and enable them to have greater control over resources. Also needed are efforts to break down the social isolation of newly married young women, encourage couple communication and build negotiation and conflict management skills early in marriage. Intervention models that have attempted to address these needs exist in India; these should be reviewed and up-scaled as appropriate so that married young women have the opportunity to exercise control over their lives.

Support newly-weds to postpone the first pregnancy and promote pregnancy-related care among those who become pregnant

Findings show that the social pressure to bear children as soon as possible following marriage persists. Contraceptives were rarely used to postpone the first pregnancy and although the desire to have delayed the first pregnancy was expressed by large proportions of young men and women, many young women experienced their first pregnancy soon after marriage. It would appear that numerous forces work against delaying the first pregnancy—young people's lack of awareness of appropriate methods of contraception and access to supplies, their limited skills in countering social expectations and negotiating pregnancy postponement, overwhelming pressure from the family and community to bear children as soon as possible after marriage, and lack of attention from health care providers.

Programmes are needed that inform youth about their pregnancy postponement options and enable them to access appropriate contraception. At the same time, providers must be trained and charged with the responsibility of reaching married young women and men—including those who have not yet experienced pregnancy—with information regarding contraception and other reproductive health matters as well as contraceptive supplies. The limited mobility of married young women to seek health care underscores the need for health workers to seek these women—particularly those newly married and first time pregnant—in their homes.

Findings also underscore that access to maternal health services was limited, even at the time of the first—and often the most risky—pregnancy. Just one in four first births took place in a health facility; moreover, skilled attendance at first delivery was reported by just one in three young women and two in five young men. These findings highlight that reproductive and child health programmes in the state need to lay emphasis on increasing demand as well as improving the availability of such services to young people.

Create a supportive family environment

Findings highlight the limited interaction and social distance between parents and young people while growing up and the gendered nature of socialisation experiences. Efforts must be made to create a supportive environment for young people. While evidence on models that are effective in bridging the distance between parents and children or enabling parents to adopt gender-egalitarian socialisation practices is not currently available, findings presented in this report call for programmes that address parental inhibitions about discussing sexual matters with their children, encourage greater openness and interaction between parents and children, and enable the adoption of gender-egalitarian child-rearing practices.

Reorient service provision to address the unique needs of unmarried and married young women and men

Although the RCH Programme has advocated special services for youth, including the unmarried, these services have not reached youth. Few youth were aware of sources of sexual and reproductive health information or contraceptive supplies, few had sought care for symptoms of STI or gynaecological problems, and most of those who had sought care for the latter preferred private to public sector facilities. Moreover, findings suggest that many youth, including the married, would indeed find it difficult to seek appropriate care for sexual and reproductive matters.

The disconnect between the public health sector and youth underscores the need to sensitise health care providers about the special needs, heterogeneity and vulnerability of unmarried and married young women and men, and to orient them to the need for developing appropriate strategies to reach these diverse groups, including young newly-weds. Programmes must be inclusive of unmarried young people and recognise their need and right to sexual and reproductive health and related information and services. Counselling and contraceptive services must be made available to unmarried young people in a non-threatening, non-judgmental and confidential environment. Indeed, these findings call for the implementation of strategies outlined under the National Rural Health Mission's RCH Programme.

Findings that very few youth sought care for health problems and that those who sought care preferred to seek care from the private sector and traditional providers rather than the public sector, suggest the need to explore the feasibility of implementing various demand side financing strategies, for example, health insurance, competitive voucher schemes and community financing schemes, in enabling youth to obtain quality care from a wider array of providers.

In addition, there is a great need for mental health issues to be addressed. Symptoms suggestive of mental health disorders were evident among sizeable proportions of youth. Efforts are needed to screen young people for mental health disorders when they avail of other primary health services, including, for example, sexual and reproductive health services, and to refer youth with such symptoms to appropriate health facilitates and providers.

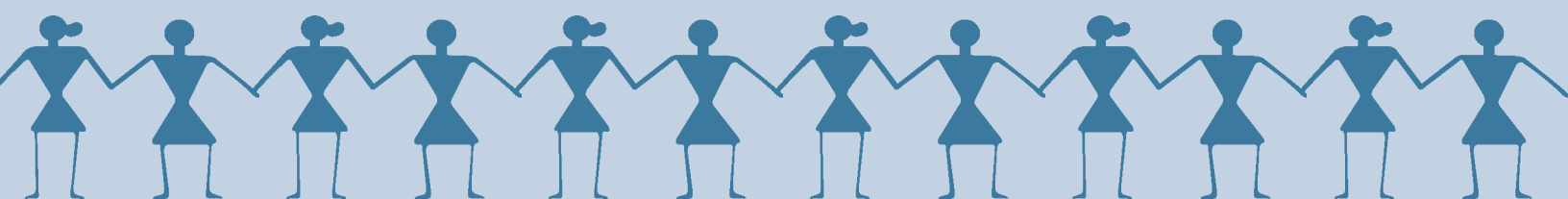
Directions for future research

Findings presented in this report provide a broad picture of youth in Bihar. At the same time, findings have raised a number of issues that require further investigation, particularly with regard to the determinants and consequences of youth behaviours and practices during the transition to adulthood. While the Youth Study is indeed a rich source of data that will enable investigators to fill many of the information gaps identified, there are several gaps in knowledge that will require additional research efforts.

Youth Study findings highlight the need for further research in terms of formative research that explores in greater depth factors impeding successful transitions to adulthood, including enrolment in school and completion of at least a primary education, entry into the labour force, initiation of sexual activity, and marriage and parenthood. Research is also needed that explores the role of peers, socialisation practices, access to information and access to services in young people's lives, and the ways in which these may contribute to or impede young people's ability to make successful transitions. A general research recommendation is the urgent need for prospective or panel study designs that follow a cohort of adolescents at regular intervals up to age 24. Prospective study designs would enable researchers to take a life course approach, identify, with compelling data, the factors responsible for healthy transitions to adulthood and point to the ways in which the situation and experiences of youth in adolescence influence their life courses at later ages.

Operations research is also needed. While there are a number of interventions intended to address the needs of youth—for example, addressing the needs of married girls, changing norms of masculinity and femininity, encouraging education for girls, developing market-based vocational skills and providing family life and sex education—few of these have been rigorously evaluated. Urgently needed, therefore, are rigorously designed and tested intervention models that not only pay attention to the content and delivery of the intervention but also measure effectiveness and acceptability—in short, that will enable a shift from the implementation of *promising to best* practices in addressing young people's needs. In order to inform the field, multiple inputs are required. Ultimately, research is needed that monitors the scaling up of successful interventions in terms of their impact on young people's lives.

In brief, the Youth Study has documented, for the first time, the multi-faceted situation of youth in Bihar. The study alerts us to the many challenges confronting youth and their ability to make a successful transition to adulthood. It emphasises the heterogeneity of youth, not only in terms of their situation but also with regard to their stated needs and preferred mechanisms to address these needs. Programmes must recognise the heterogeneity of young people and interventions and delivery mechanisms should be appropriately tailored to meet their needs. Evidence presented here provides not only a blue-print for the programming needs of youth in Bihar but also a base-line by which to measure the impact of programmes intended to address youth needs.



Chapter 1

Introduction

1.1 Rationale

The *Youth in India: Situation and Needs* Study (referred to as the Youth Study) is the first-ever sub-nationally representative study conducted to identify key transitions experienced by married and unmarried youth in India. There is a strong rationale for the Youth Study. Young people (aged 10–24) constitute almost 315 million and represent 31% of the Indian population (Office of the Registrar General and Census Commissioner, 2001a). Numbers are projected to increase and peak at around 358 million in 2011 before stabilising at around 336 million by 2026 (Office of the Registrar General and Census Commissioner, 2006). Not only does this cohort represent India's future in the socio-economic and political realms, but its experiences will largely determine India's achievement of its goal of population stabilisation articulated in the National Population Policy 2000 (MOHFW, 2000) and the extent to which the nation will be able to harness its demographic dividend. In addition, it is clear that the realisation of the Millennium Development Goals (UNDP, 2000) depends, to a considerable extent, upon the situation of young people. While today's youth are healthier, more urbanised and better educated than earlier generations, social vulnerabilities persist and transitions to adulthood are too frequently marked by early entry into the labour force, abrupt and premature exit from school, early marriage and strongly held gender norms. In the course of the transition to adulthood, moreover, young people face significant risks related to sexual and reproductive health, and many lack the knowledge and power to make informed sexual and reproductive choices (for a review, see Jejeebhoy and Sebastian, 2003).

In recognition of the importance of investing in young people, several national policies formulated since 2000 have underscored a commitment to addressing the multiple needs of this group in India. The National Population Policy 2000 recognised, for the first time, that adolescents constitute an under-served group with special sexual and reproductive health needs, and advocates special programmatic attention to addressing this population (MOHFW, 2000). The National Youth Policy 2003 focuses on the needs of those aged 13–35, but recognises adolescents (aged 13–19) as a special group requiring a different approach from that appropriate for young adults (aged 20–35), and promotes strategies to meet youth needs in areas including education, training and employment, health, recreation and sports, and good citizenship (Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, 2003). Also notable is the commitment to addressing the needs of adolescents and young people articulated in the Tenth and Eleventh Five-Year Plans (Planning Commission, 2002; 2006). In addition, the National Adolescent Reproductive and Sexual Health Strategy that provides the framework for the adolescent sexual and reproductive health services proposed in the Reproductive and Child Health (RCH) Programme II (MOHFW, 2006). The National Rural Health Mission (2005–12) has incorporated adolescent health services as part of its service guarantees in health sub-centres, primary health centres and schools (MOHFW, 2005).

Effective implementation of both policies and programmes, however, has been handicapped by a lack of evidence on young people's situation and needs. Currently available evidence is limited, at best, and comes largely from small scale and unrepresentative studies. The most recent National Family Health Survey (NFHS-3) obtained, for the first time, valuable data on unmarried young women and men (IIPS and Macro International,

2007a). Even so, the information that it provides on young people's various transitions remains limited and the small sample sizes obtained in most states preclude the possibility of in-depth analysis and of obtaining state-representative estimates of behaviours and practices among different sub-groups of young people.

1.2 Study objectives

The objectives of the Youth Study were to identify key transitions experienced by youth, including those pertaining to education, work force participation, sexual activity, marriage, health and civic participation; provide state-level evidence on the magnitude and patterns of young people's sexual and reproductive practices in and outside of marriage as well as related knowledge, decision-making and attitudes; and, finally, identify key factors underlying young people's sexual and reproductive health knowledge, attitudes and life choices. Findings from the study are expected to guide policy, programmes and advocacy on youth issues, enable programmes and policies to recognise the heterogeneity of youth in India, and provide important base-line indicators against which the long-term impact of programmes may be measured.

The Youth Study focused on married and unmarried young women and unmarried young men aged 15–24 and, because of the paucity of married young men in the younger ages, married men aged 15–29 in both rural and urban settings. The study was conducted in a phased manner in six states of India: Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand, Maharashtra, Rajasthan and Tamil Nadu. This report focuses on findings from Bihar.

Funding for the Youth Study was provided by the David and Lucile Packard Foundation and the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation. The Youth Study was conducted jointly by the International Institute for Population Sciences, Mumbai (IIPS) and the Population Council, New Delhi. The design and implementation of this study were guided by the Project Advisory Committee, headed by the Secretary, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MOHFW).

1.3 Bihar: Overview of demographic and socio-economic features

The state of Bihar, situated in the eastern part of India, is India's twelfth largest state in terms of geographical area. The state covers a total of 94,163 square kilometres and contains 38 districts divided into two geographic regions, namely, North Bihar Plain and South Bihar Plain and nine administrative divisions, namely, Patna, Magadh, Saran, Tirhut, Darbhanga, Koshi, Purnea, Bhagalpur and Munger (www.bstdc.bih.nic.in/factfile.htm).

Bihar, with a population of 83 million in 2001, ranks third in terms of total population among states in India (Office of the Registrar General and Census Commissioner, 2001b). The state's population is projected to have reached 93.6 million by 2008 (Office of the Registrar General and Census Commissioner, 2006). The sex ratio in Bihar (919 females per 1,000 males) is lower than in India as a whole (933). Population density in the state was 881 persons per square kilometre in 2001. The distribution of the population by religion indicates that 83% of the state's population was Hindu and 16.5% was Muslim (Office of the Registrar General and Census Commissioner, 2001c). Scheduled castes (SC) and scheduled tribes (ST) constituted 16% and 1%, respectively, of the state's total population (Office of the Registrar General and Census Commissioner, 2001b).

The state is characterised by a large rural population; just 11% of the state's population live in urban areas. It has witnessed large-scale migration both within the state as well as to other states. Indeed, according to the 2001 Census, the state ranks second in terms of the number of inter-state migrants (Office of the Registrar General and Census Commissioner, 2001d).

Economically, Bihar is one of the least developed states in the country. Its contribution to the national Gross Domestic Product (GDP) was 2.5% in 2006–2007 (Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, 2008). Its per capita income of Rs. 7,875 in 2005–2006 was the lowest among states in India and well below the national average of Rs. 25,716 (Ministry of Finance, 2008). Bihar's Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) at current prices stood at Rs. 94,251 crores in 2006–07 (Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, 2008); at constant prices (1999–00), the GSDP hardly increased (by 0.07%) between 2004–05 and 2005–06, which may be attributed to annual fluctuations in the contributions of the primary sector and the poor performance of secondary and tertiary sectors (Department of Finance, Government of Bihar, 2008). Moreover, poverty levels remain high in the state. As of 2004–05, two-fifths of the state's population (based on the Uniform Recall Period consumption distribution) was estimated to live below the poverty line, with significant differences between those residing in urban (34.6%) and rural (42.1%) areas (Planning Commission, 2007). Unemployment rates are relatively low; in 2004–05, 1.9% and 7.0% of rural and urban males, respectively, were unemployed for a major part of the year, as measured by the usual principal status definition. The corresponding figures for females were 0.3% and 5.7%, respectively (NSSO, 2006).

Bihar lags behind the rest of India on many social indicators as well. For example, the state has the lowest literacy rate among Indian states; the overall literacy rate was 47% in 2001, ranging from 33% among females to 60% among males. Indeed, literacy rates were considerably lower than the national average of 54% for females and 75% for males (Office of the Registrar General and Census Commissioner, 2001b).

The state's performance in the health sector is also notably poor. Life expectancy among males was one year lower in Bihar[1] than in India in general: 62 and 63 years, respecti vely during 2002–06. For females, life expectancy was four years lower in Bihar than in India in general: 60 and 64 years, respectively (Office of the Registrar General and Census Commissioner, 2008). The state's infant mortality rate (62 per 1,000 live births) is higher than the national average (57) (IIPS and Macro International, 2008). Fertility rates are also considerably higher in Bihar than in India on average; indeed, the total fertility in the state (4.0) is the highest of any state in India. The contraceptive prevalence rate is, correspondingly, much lower and a much larger proportion of women in Bihar report an unmet need for contraception than in India on the whole. Indeed, use of contraceptive methods is as low as 34%, while at the same time, as many as one in four (23%) had reported an unmet need for contraception (IIPS and Macro International, 2008). This compares with a contraceptive prevalence rate of 56% and unmet need of 13% nationally (IIPS and Macro International, 2007a).

1.4 Situation of youth in Bihar

Young people aged 10–24 constitute a total of 24 million, and account for 29% of the state's population. The youth population, that is, those aged 15–24 numbered 13.1 million in 2001, accounting for 16% of the state's population (Office of the Registrar General and Census Commissioner, 2001a). The share of the youth population as a proportion of the total population of Bihar is projected to increase to 22% by 2011, before beginning to decline (Office of the Registrar General and Census Commissioner, 2006).

Educational attainment levels among youth are considerably lower in the state than in India overall, and gender differences in enrolment are substantially wider. Among young people (aged 10–24), just 68% of men and 47% of women were literate in 2001 in Bihar compared to 85% and 71%, respectively in India. (Office of the Registrar General and Census Commissioner, 2001e). Data on gross enrolment ratios also highlight the

[1] *Including Jharkhand, individual estimates are not available.*

state's poor performance in the educational field. Even among children aged 6–11 years, the gross enrolment ratio was 84% in 2004–05, the corresponding figures for 11–14 year-olds and 14–16 year-olds were 32% and 22%, respectively. The Gender Parity Index (GPI) at the elementary, secondary and higher secondary levels of education indicates limited access to educational opportunities for girls at all levels of schooling in the state; the GPI score ranged from 0.73 at the elementary level to 0.48 at the secondary and higher secondary level in 2004–05 (Ministry of Human Resource Development, 2007).

Bihar has few employment opportunities for youth, and as elsewhere in the country, unemployment rates were much higher among young people than among the general population in the state (as discussed in Section 1.3). For example, among the population aged 15–29, unemployment rates, as measured in terms of principal usual status, were 5.3% and 17.8% among young men in rural and urban settings, respectively, during 2004–05. The corresponding rates among young women were 1.3% and 30.9%, respectively (NSSO, 2006).

Available evidence on the sexual and reproductive health profile of young people in Bihar highlights their vulnerability. Marriage continues to take place before the legal minimum age for both young women and men; as recently as 2005–06, 69% of women aged 20–24 were married by age 18 and 43% of men aged 25–29 were married by age 21. Moreover, one in four 15–19 year-old girls have begun childbearing (IIPS and Macro International, 2008).

While it is clear that sexual relations are initiated early and within the context of marriage for large proportions of young women and men in Bihar, recent surveys and small-scale studies report that sexual risk taking before or within marriage is not unheard of among young people, particularly among young men in the state. For example, the National Family Health Survey 2005–06 reports that 11% and 1%, respectively, of unmarried young men and women had experienced sex (IIPS and Macro International, 2008). Likewise, the recent National Behavioural Surveillance Survey reports that some 5% and 0.6% of young men and women aged 15–24 had engaged in sexual intercourse with a non-regular partner in the 12 months preceding the survey (National Institute of Medical Statistics and NACO, 2008). Similarly, a recent small-scale study focusing on students in Class IX and XI in Patna reports that 10% of male students and 1% female students had experienced pre-marital sex (Shekhar, Ghosh and Panda, 2007).

Despite the early onset of sexual relations within or before marriage among significant proportions of youth, available evidence suggests that young people's knowledge of sexual and reproductive health matters tends to be limited. For example, data from NFHS-3 indicate that only 14% of young women and 27% of young men had comprehensive knowledge about HIV/AIDS. Some 60% of young women and 77% of young men were aware of a source for condoms (IIPS and Macro International, 2008).

1.5 Youth-related policy and programme environment in Bihar

The Bihar state government has articulated its commitment to promoting adolescent health in the state's Population Policy and its Reproductive and Child Health Programme-II. The Population Policy 2000 notes that the sexual and reproductive health needs of adolescents have remained unaddressed and calls for programmes to encourage delayed marriage and childbearing, to inform adolescents and young people about sexual and reproductive health matters and to make reproductive health and nutritional services accessible and affordable to them (Department of Health and Family Welfare, Government of Bihar, 2000). The Programme Implementation Plan of the Reproductive and Child Health Programme-II has proposed a number of activities to improve reproductive health and nutrition of adolescents. These include workshops to sensitise health service providers and other gatekeepers to the health needs of adolescents and behaviour

change communication campaigns for adolescents that raise awareness about safe reproductive health practices, family planning, good nutritional practices and the importance of micronutrients. Also proposed are RTI/STI services for adolescents through an expanded network of health facilities and frontline health workers and distribution of micronutrient supplements to adolescents through health and education networks. The formation of partnership with NGOs and civil society networks to promote adolescent reproductive health is also envisaged (Department of Health and Family Welfare, Government of Bihar, n.d.). Additionally, programmes to raise adolescents' and young people's awareness about HIV/AIDS/STIs have also been introduced in the state, for example, the School AIDS Education Programme launched in 2001 (Bihar State AIDS Control Society, 2004).

In the field of education, the government has introduced a number of schemes to promote girls' schooling, including the *Mukhyamantri Balika Poshak Yojana* that provides financial assistance to girls in Classes VI-VIII to procure school uniforms, the *Mukhyamantri Balika Cycle Yojana* that provides bicycles to girls in Class IX, free distribution of textbooks among all girl students of Standard I-VIII and constitution of girls' groups (*Meena Manch and Meena Rangmanch*) in secondary schools that help in building awareness on issues related to education, health and nutrition, and water and sanitation at the community level (Department of Finance, 2008).

In addition, a number of non-governmental organisations (NGOs), including Bihar-based and national NGOs, implement programmes intended to meet the needs of young people in the state. These programmes have focused on providing sexual and reproductive health related information, counselling and services, including condoms, to young people; providing opportunities to build young people's livelihood skills; and mobilising communities to support young people's access to information and services.

1.6 Study phases

The Youth Study comprised three phases and included both a survey and qualitative data gathering exercises.

1.6.1 Pre-survey qualitative phase

As the Youth Study was one of the first of its kind in India, precedents did not exist for youth terminologies, particularly in reference to sensitive issues (romantic relationships, sexual experience and so on), and youth perceptions or youth willingness to share their experiences with study teams. In order to better understand these matters and to inform the design of the survey instrument, focus group discussions were conducted with married and unmarried young women and men, and key informant interviews conducted with teachers, health care providers, and community and youth leaders, in the first phase of the Youth Study. This phase also offered us an opportunity to explore community reactions to the kinds of issues to be raised in the survey.

In the course of this pre-survey qualitative phase, we also conducted in-depth interviews with parents of youth to collect parental perspectives on young people's situation and needs. In each site, eight categories of parents were selected (mothers and fathers of married and unmarried young men and women, respectively). The discussion focused on the life experiences of the child of interest.

The pre-survey qualitative phase was undertaken during May-July 2005 and covered at least one urban area and one rural area of six geographically diverse districts of the state. In total, 18 focus group discussions

were held with young people; 39 key informant interviews were held with community leaders, health care providers, teachers and youth leaders; and 72 in-depth interviews were held with mothers and fathers.

1.6.2 Survey phase

Fieldwork was undertaken between January and August 2007. A total of 8,136 married and unmarried young women and men were interviewed during this phase.

1.6.3 Post-survey qualitative phase

In order to better understand the sexual and reproductive experiences of youth and the factors inhibiting and facilitating safe transitions into these behaviours, in-depth interviews were conducted with consenting survey respondents who reported certain experiences in the course of the survey interview. These experiences included, notably, having an opposite-sex romantic partner; having sexual relations with an opposite-sex romantic partner; experiencing same-sex, forced or exchange sexual relations; and among young men, engaging in relations with sex workers or married women. Among the married, in addition, experiences included exercising choice in spouse selection and practising contraception to delay the first pregnancy.

At the conclusion of the survey interview, interviewers sought the consent of respondents for an in-depth interview. Those who consented were then approached by a trained investigator who conducted the interview in the form of an unstructured conversation. In-depth interviews therefore took place at around the same time as did the survey. A total of 55 in-depth interviews were completed—33 and 22 among rural and urban respondents, respectively.

Findings from the survey are presented in this report.[2]

1.7 Study instruments

1.7.1 Interview guidelines

For the pre-survey qualitative phase, three sets of guidelines were prepared for focus group discussions, key informant interviews and in-depth interviews, respectively. These guidelines were appropriately modified for each youth group (married and unmarried young women and men) and parent group (mothers and fathers of married and unmarried young women and men). As mentioned above, specific guidelines were not prepared for the post-survey in-depth interviews with youth reporting selected behaviours; instead, interviewers were trained to steer the interview to focus on the experience of interest, and obtain information on the circumstances surrounding the experience and the respondent's own perceptions about the experience.

1.7.2 Questionnaires

A total of six questionnaires were developed for the study: a community questionnaire; a household questionnaire, administered in each selected household; and four individual questionnaires, one each for married young men, married young women, unmarried young men and unmarried young women.

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[2] *Separate reports, drawn from in-depth interviews with parents and youth, respectively, will discuss parental perspectives on young people's experience of growing up and provide insights on the sexual and reproductive experiences of youth, as well as factors inhibiting and facilitating safe transitions into these behaviours.*

The community questionnaire was administered in each village selected for the survey. This questionnaire collected information on different aspects of village life, including the village population, numbers engaged in agriculture, and the availability of various facilities and infrastructure in and around the village. Team supervisors administered the questionnaire to one or more individuals from each village who were well-informed about the village.

The household questionnaire listed all usual residents of the selected households and collected basic information on each listed household member, including his or her age, sex, marital status, relationship to the head of the household, education and current activity status. Information was also obtained on the religion and caste of the head of the household as well as on ownership of the residential structure and agricultural land, number of rooms in the residence, and such amenities available as type of toilet facility, main source of lighting, main type of cooking fuel and main source of drinking water. The survey also inquired about ownership of 17 consumer durables. Finally, information was sought on the marriage of any usual resident of the household in the three years preceding the interview as well as the sex and age of the person at the time of marriage.

The development of individual questionnaires was informed by other survey instruments, notably the World Health Organisation core questionnaire for youth surveys (Cleland, 2001) and a recent survey conducted in Pune district on the formation of partnerships among youth (Alexander et al., 2003). Other instruments consulted included surveys of youth conducted in India (Andrew, Patel and Ramakrishna, 2003; IIPS and Population Council, 2002; Sebastian, Grant and Mensch, 2003), Pakistan (Sathar et al., 2003), the Philippines (DRDF and UPPI, 2002), Vietnam (Mensch, Anh and Clark, 2000) and sub-Saharan Africa (Guttmacher Institute, 2004a; 2004b; 2004c). Finally, our survey instrument drew upon the questionnaire used in the NFHS-3 (IIPS and Macro International, 2007b).

The development of individual questionnaires was also informed by insights obtained in the pre-survey qualitative phase. Once the pre-survey qualitative phase was completed in all six states, the data generated were analysed to identify the kinds of issues that would be explored in the survey, ways of presenting sensitive issues, and terminologies to be used that would be comprehensible and acceptable to youth. The survey instrument was finalised after extensive pre-testing in several states.

Individual questionnaires were employed to interview eligible youth who usually resided in the selected households. Currently married young men and women aged 15–29 and 15–24, respectively, as well as unmarried young men and women aged 15–24, were eligible for interview. Widowed and divorced individuals were excluded from the survey. Keeping in mind the sensitive nature of the questions, the questionnaire was divided into several sections and arranged in such a way that the most sensitive questions were administered towards the middle of the interview. This strategy of asking a series of non-sensitive questions in the early part of the interview served two purposes: it enabled the interviewer and respondent to build rapport before sensitive questions were posed; and it permitted the investigator to maintain privacy for sensitive questions, as interested bystanders would usually depart while questions in the early sections were posed.

The individual questionnaires collected information on the following topics:

Background characteristics: Questions were asked regarding age, education and schooling, quality of school or college attended, work patterns including housework and paid employment, vocational training, short-term migration and characteristics of parents.

Additionally, a Life Event Calendar (LEC), adapted from that used in a nationally representative survey of adolescents and youth in Pakistan (Sathar et al., 2003) was administered to obtain information on education,

work, living arrangements, marriage and family building (for married respondents), starting from the age of 12 years. This system of recording life events is considered one of the most effective approaches to minimise recall error.

Media exposure: Respondents were asked whether they were exposed to newspapers, television or the internet, and whether they watched pornographic films or read pornographic magazines. They were also asked about their views on the influence of films and television on their own life as well as young people's lives in general.

Puberty: In order to assess the age at which respondents experienced puberty, respondents were asked to report their age at key signs of maturation. Young women were questioned about their first menstruation while young men were asked about the onset of voice change and growth of pubic hair.

Parental interaction/relationship: Detailed questions were asked on the extent of parent-child communication on everyday activities as well as sexual and reproductive issues. Questions were also asked that assessed the extent to which a respondent had witnessed parental violence or been the victim of violence perpetrated by a parent while growing up.

Communication, mobility and decision-making: This section collected information on the person in whom youth were most likely to confide on matters related to getting a job, growing up, boy-girl relationships and personal problems. Detailed questions were also asked on decision-making and, for all groups except married males, mobility.

Gender and self-efficacy: In order to evaluate the respondent's gender role attitudes and level of self-efficacy, questions were asked to probe opinions on a range of gender-related issues such as the importance of boys' vis-à-vis girls' education, housework and freedom of movement.

Awareness of sexual and reproductive matters: This section probed young people's awareness about sexual relations, pregnancy, contraceptive methods, HIV/AIDS and sexually transmitted infection (STI) as well as the legal minimum age at marriage and conditions under which abortion is legally permitted. This section also probed young people's sources of information on sexual matters and contraception, the extent to which they had obtained formal sex or family life education, and their experiences and perceptions about this education.

Connectedness and friendship: Questions relating to connectedness and friendship explored respondents' friendship networks among those of the same sex and activities in which they participated with their friends. This was followed in a gradual fashion by questions on interaction with the opposite sex, whether or not the respondent had exchanged a "proposal" of romantic partnership with someone of the opposite sex and whether the respondent had ever met someone of the opposite sex secretly in a number of likely places.

Pre-marital romantic heterosexual relationships: This was a highly sensitive section, conducted only if complete privacy was assured. The section started by probing the pre-marital romantic and sexual experiences of up to five of the respondent's best friends. This technique, known as anonymous third-party reporting (developed by Rossier, 2003), was used to assess the extent to which youth were more likely to report the romantic and sexual relationships of their peers than of themselves. Respondents were then asked about their own experiences of pre-marital romantic partnership and, if reported, detailed questions were asked on the nature of such relationships with the first partner and the last or most recent partner (if more than one partner was reported). Questions were designed to gradually probe sensitive behaviours, for example, starting with whether the respondent had ever held hands with a romantic opposite-sex partner, and continuing with

questions on hugging, kissing and finally having sex with the partner. We believe this gradual progression of questions was more culturally appropriate than a single question on pre-marital sex and provided insights into the range of behaviours youth experienced. If sex with a pre-marital romantic partner was reported, a host of questions followed that probed the consensuality of first sex with this partner, condom use, frequency of such relations and experience of pre-marital pregnancy. Questions were also asked about the characteristics of the romantic partner and parental awareness of and reactions to the romantic relationship.

Marriage process: In this section questions covered marriage planning, dowry, the participation of the respondent in decision-making related to marriage and the respondent's feelings about his or her own marriage. This section was administered, suitably modified, to both married and unmarried respondents.

Married life: Married respondents were asked detailed questions on married life. These included the nature of marriage (love or arranged), acquaintance with spouse before marriage and age at cohabitation. Questions about the marital relationship were also covered, including spousal communication and joint decision-making, the nature of the first sexual experience with spouse, experience of forced sex within marriage, inter-spousal violence, pregnancy experiences and outcomes, and contraceptive practice.

Same-sex, paid and forced sexual experiences: This was a second highly sensitive section in which respondents were asked a series of questions on their personal experience of several types of sexual encounters, for example, paid or exchange sex, forced sex perpetrated on the respondent and casual sex. In the case of male respondents, additional questions were asked about sex with a same-sex partner, relations with sex workers and married women (other than their wife for married males) and whether they had ever perpetrated forced sex. All married respondents were also asked about the experience of extra-marital sexual relations. Respondents who reported any of these experiences were probed about their age at their first experience of such a sexual encounter and the extent to which they had used condoms in these encounters.

Attitudes: This section probed respondents' views on pre-marital physical intimacy and wife beating.

Health and health seeking: This section collected information on respondents' experience of common health problems, specifically high fever and injury, as well as symptoms of genital infections in the three months preceding the survey. In addition, respondents were asked whether they had sought treatment for these health issues and, if so, from what source. Respondents' mental health in the last one month was assessed using the 12-item General Health Questionnaire, developed for use in field conditions (Goldberg, 1992).

Substance use and violence: A series of questions were asked about consumption of tobacco products, alcohol or drugs. In each case, questions were asked about use and frequency of use of such substances by family members and by the respondents themselves. Additional questions sought respondents' assessments of the frequency with which young people in their neighbourhoods engaged in violence (fights or beatings) and their own participation in such violence.

Programmes and participation: The final section of the questionnaire collected information on programmes available to young people in the village or neighbourhood in which they resided, and the extent to which youth participated in such programmes. In addition, rural respondents were asked about the role of *panchayats* in decisions affecting young people's lives. All respondents were asked about their participation in community activities, opinions about political processes, secular attitudes and participation in recent elections. Finally, respondents were asked to identify the most important problem facing youth in their village or neighbourhood.

Sealed envelope response: However carefully designed and culturally sensitive the survey questions may have been, the possibility that young people would deliberately withhold information about their sexual experiences in a face-to-face interview could not be discounted. Drawing from other research in the field, an anonymous reporting method was included in our survey to obtain responses to a single question: *Have you ever had sex with anyone [for the unmarried]/Did you ever have sex with anyone before marriage [for the married]?* Interviewers first explained the technique to respondents, noting in particular its confidential nature. The interviewer then gave each respondent a blank card and asked him or her to simply mark a "✓" or an "**X**" on the card to indicate that s/he had or had not experienced pre-marital sex. Once marked, the respondent placed the card inside an envelope provided by the interviewer; the envelope was sealed by the respondent and returned to the interviewer. Unique identification numbers linked the individual's questionnaire with his or her responses in the sealed envelope. Envelopes were opened only at the central office at the time of data entry.

Draft tools were extensively reviewed at meetings of the study's Technical Advisory Committee and were then translated into four languages (Hindi, Marathi, Tamil and Telegu), extensively pre-tested and finalised after appropriate modification. Copies of all these instruments are provided in the CD enclosed with this report.

1.8 Study design and sample size estimation for individual interviews

The Youth Survey was designed to provide estimates for the state as a whole, as well as for urban and rural areas for each of the four categories of respondents, namely married and unmarried young women and men, separately. The study was not designed to provide estimates at district or sub-district levels.

While arriving at sample size estimates, on the basis of the scarce available evidence, the following assumptions were made:

- 10% of unmarried young women would report the experience of pre-marital sexual relations;
- Among married men, 20% would report unsafe sexual relations (multiple partner sex or non-use of condoms, unintended pregnancy or experience of STI symptoms);
- The coefficient of variation was set at 10% (equivalent to fixing the absolute error at 20% of the true value and 95% confidence interval);
- The non-response rate for the individual interviews was assumed to be 25–30%;
- Design effect was assumed to be in the range of 1.5 to 2.

The chances of finding an unmarried young man were greater than the chances of finding a married young man in a given household, and conversely, the chances of finding a married young woman were greater than the chances of finding an unmarried young woman. As a result, in the case of the male sample, our strategy was to estimate the number of households required to obtain the target number of married young men aged 15–29 in the male primary sampling units (PSUs), that is, the harder to reach group of males. Similarly, in female PSUs, the strategy was to identify the total number of households required based on the target number of unmarried young women aged 15–24, again, the harder to reach group of females.

Following from the assumptions described above, and in consultation with the study's Technical Advisory Committee, the required sample of each sub-group of youth was determined at 1,000 married young men,

1,250 unmarried young men, 1,250 married young women and 1,750 unmarried young women each for urban and rural areas, that is, a total sample size of 5,250 in each area.[3] However, our early experience suggested that because of the considerable mobility of youth, there was likely to be a shortfall in achieving these numbers. Hence in Bihar, Rajasthan and Andhra Pradesh, we revised the sample size to 1,200 married young men, 1,800 unmarried young men, 1,500 married young women and 2,100 unmarried young women, that is, a total sample size of 6,600 in rural and urban areas, respectively. In Bihar, moreover, because the relative proportion of unmarried young men in rural areas was lower than that observed in other states, we were further required to inflate the sample of married young men in rural areas to 1620 in order to obtain a minimum of 1,800 unmarried men. Hence, the targeted sample size for rural Bihar was 1,620 married young men, 1,800 unmarried young men, 1,500 married young women and 2,100 unmarried young women, that is a total sample size of 7020. In order to achieve the above-mentioned number of individual interviews, an estimated 31,391 households required to be covered in Bihar.

We further determined that a total of 300 PSUs—villages in rural areas and Census Enumeration Blocks (CEBs) in the urban areas—would be visited in order to conduct interviews in the required number of households. Thus, the average number of household interviews to be conducted in each rural PSU was calculated to be 191 among female PSUs and 66 among male PSUs. Corresponding averages for each urban PSU were 93 and 68, respectively.

1.8.1 Sample selection strategy

The study treated rural and urban areas of each state as independent sampling domains and, therefore, drew sample areas independently for each of these two domains. In order to avoid potential risks associated with interviewing both women and men from the same PSU, we decided to conduct interviews in separate PSUs for female and male respondents, that is, interviews with young women in 150 PSUs and young men in the remaining 150 (referred to as female and male PSUs, respectively). These 150 PSUs were further divided equally into rural and urban areas, that is, 75 for rural respondents and 75 for urban respondents. Within each sampling domain, a systematic, multi-stage sampling design was adopted. Sample selection procedures differed somewhat in rural and urban areas, as described below.

1.8.1.a Selection of households in rural areas

In rural areas, the 2001 Census list of villages served as the sampling frame for the selection of villages. This list was stratified using four variables, namely, region, village size, proportion of the population belonging to scheduled castes and scheduled tribes and female literacy. At the first level of stratification, the state of

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[3] *In estimating the number of households required, the study used the age-sex-marital status distributions observed in rural and urban areas, respectively, in the 2001 Census. The following formula was used to estimate sample size:*

$$\text{Coefficient of Variation } (cv) = \sqrt{\frac{q}{np}}$$

$$n = \frac{q}{cv^2 p}$$

In order to obtain the actual number of respondents, the above numbers were multiplied by the design effect and a factor 'K' (1 + the non-response rate).

Bihar was stratified into 6 contiguous geographical regions, with districts (as defined in the 2001 census) classified into these regions as follows:

Region I : Paschim Champaran, Purbi Champaran, Gopalganj, Siwan, Saran
Region II : Sheohar, Sitamarhi, Madhubani, Supaul, Saharsha, Darbhanga, Muzaffarpur, Vaishali, Samastipur
Region III : Araria, Kishanganj, Purnea, Katihar, Madhepura
Region IV : Patna, Bhojpur, Buxar, Kaimur (Bhabua), Rohtas
Region V : Khagaria, Bhagalpur, Banka, Munger
Region VI : Begusarai, Lakhisarai, Sheikhpura, Nalanda, Jehanabad, Aurangabad, Gaya, Nawada, Jamui

In each region, villages were further stratified by village size, and except in regions IV and V, further by the percentage of the population belonging to scheduled castes or scheduled tribes. Table 1.1 gives detailed information on the stratification scheme in rural areas along with the population in each stratum. The last level of stratification was implicit for all strata, consisting of an ordering of villages within each stratum by level of female literacy, ordered alternatively in increasing and decreasing level of female literacy (obtained from the 2001 Census Village Directory).

The sample in rural areas was selected in two stages. At the first stage of selection, villages were selected systematically from the stratified list arranged as described above, with selection probability proportional to size (PPS). The 150 PSUs thus selected were then ordered by district and *taluka* codes and numbered from 1 to 150. Odd-numbered PSUs were designated for interviews with young men and even numbered PSUs for interviews with young women. In the case of male PSUs, selected PSUs containing fewer than 75 households were then linked to one or more adjoining villages so that the PSU had approximately 75 households. In the case of female PSUs, selected PSUs containing fewer than 200 households were linked to one or more adjoining villages so that the PSU had approximately 200 households. Those containing more than 300 and fewer than 601 households were segmented into two approximately equal parts, and one was chosen randomly for the survey. In the case of even larger villages, that is, those containing more than 600 households, segments of 150–200 households were made and numbered in a clockwise manner. Two segments were then selected using probability proportional to size.

The rural domain sampling fraction for a particular category, that is, the probability of selecting an eligible respondent of a particular category in rural Bihar (f^R), was computed as:

$$f^R = \frac{n^R}{N^R}$$

where

n^R = number of eligible respondents in a particular category to be interviewed (target number of interviews as described before), and
N^R = projected rural population of eligible respondents in the state as of April 1, 2006.

The probability of selecting a PSU from rural Bihar (f_1^R) was computed as:

$$f_1^R = \frac{a \times v_i}{\sum v_i}$$

where

a = number of PSUs selected from rural areas for the particular category,
v_i = population of the i^{th} PSU, and
$\sum v_i$ = total rural population of the state.

A complete mapping and household listing operation was carried out in each selected PSU (or in selected segments or linked villages as appropriate). This list of households provided the necessary frame for selecting households at the second stage. Mapping and listing were conducted by teams, each comprising one mapper and one lister. Households to be interviewed were selected with equal probability from the list using systematic sampling.

The probability of selecting a household from a selected rural PSU (f_2^R) was calculated as:

$$f_2^R = \frac{f^R}{f_1^R}$$

No replacement for selected households was allowed even if a selected household could not be contacted after several attempts.

All the sampling fractions (f^R, f_1^R, f_2^R) described above were computed separately for male and female PSUs on the basis of the target sample of married males and unmarried females, respectively.

Because we expected more unmarried than married males in our age groups, we needed to visit fewer households to obtain the required number of unmarried compared to married males. Likewise, because we expected more married than unmarried females, we needed to visit fewer households to obtain the required number of married compared to unmarried females. Appropriate intervals were computed to operationalise each of these selection processes.

Table 1.1: Sampling stratification scheme

Details of the stratification used for sampling, Bihar (rural), 2007

Stratum number	Stratification variables			Total population[1]
	Region	Village size (number of residential households)	Percent of SC/ST population	
1	1	≤370	≤12	282,757
2	1	≤370	>12	2,633,325
3	1	>370 & 600 ≤	NA	2,831,441
4	1	>600	≤12	2,875,471
5	1	>600	>12	2,673,551
6	2	≤450	≤16	3,148,570
7	2	≤450	>16	3,047,436
8	2	>450 & 660 ≤	NA	3,113,120
9	2	>660 & 1320 ≤	≤15	3,261,086
10	2	>660 & 1320 ≤	>15	2,945,500
11	2	>1320	≤14	3,211,296
12	2	>1320	>14	2,903,983
13	3	≤500	NA	2,939,823
14	3	>500	≤14	3,103,101
15	3	>500	>14	3,038,315
16	4	≤240	NA	3,074,828
17	4	>240 & 550 ≤	NA	3,124,459
18	4	>550	NA	2,934,524
19	5	≤650	NA	2,752,000
20	5	>650	NA	2,691,038
21	6	≤170	NA	2,860,221
22	6	>170 & 500 ≤	≤23	2,894,045
23	6	>170 & 500 ≤	>23	2,883,091
24	6	>500	≤18	2,901,637
25	6	>500	>18	2,733,687
Total	**NA**	**NA**	**NA**	**70,858,305**

Note: The level of female literacy (2001 Census) was used for implicit stratification. Villages with less than 50 households in the 2001 Census were excluded from the sampling frame. NA: Not applicable. SC: Scheduled caste. ST: Scheduled tribe.
[1]2001 Census population.

1.8.1.b Selection of households in urban areas

In selecting the urban sample, the 2001 Census list of wards (each consisting of several CEBs of 100–200 households) provided the sampling frame. For operational convenience, the Youth Study first determined male PSUs (equivalent to a CEB) and followed this with the selection of female PSUs (another CEB) in CEBs adjacent to male CEBs. As a result, half the total required number of PSUs was first selected.

In urban areas, the 2001 Census list of wards was first arranged by district, and within each district by level of female literacy. The sample was then selected in three stages. At the first stage of selection, 75 wards were selected systematically with probability proportional to size. At the second stage, within each selected ward, CEBs were arranged by their administrative number and one CEB (designated as a male PSU) was selected using probability proportional to size. For each selected male CEB, an adjacent CEB was chosen to represent the female PSU in the same ward.

The urban domain sampling fraction for a particular category, that is, the probability of selecting an eligible respondent of a particular category in urban Bihar (f^U), was computed as:

$$f^U = \frac{n^U}{N^U}$$

where

n^U = number of eligible respondents in a particular category to be interviewed in urban areas (target number of interviews as described before), and
N^U = projected urban population of eligible respondents in the state as of April 1, 2006.

The probability of selecting a ward (or section) from urban Bihar (f_1^U) was computed as:

$$f_1^U = \frac{a \times w_i}{\sum w_i}$$

where

a = number of wards selected from urban areas for the particular category,
w_i = population of i^{th} ward, and
$\sum w_i$ = total urban population of the state.

The probability of selecting a CEB from a selected ward (f_2^U) was computed as:

$$f_2^U = \frac{c_i}{\sum c_i}$$

where

c_i = population of i^{th} CEB from a selected ward, and
$\sum c_i$ = total population of the selected ward.

A complete mapping and household listing operation was carried out in each selected PSU and the resulting list provided the necessary frame for selecting households at the third stage. Households to be interviewed were selected with equal probability from the list using systematic sampling. In some CEBs the number of households listed was smaller than the minimum expected number of households, and in such cases, a part of an adjacent CEB was listed.

The probability of selecting a household from a selected urban PSU (f_3^U) was calculated as:

$$f_3^U = \frac{f^U}{f_1^U \times f_2^U}$$

As in the case of rural areas, (a) no replacement of selected households was allowed under any circumstances; (b) all sampling fractions (f^U, f_1^U, f_2^U, f_3^U) were computed separately for male and female PSUs on the basis

of the target sample of married males and unmarried females, respectively; and (c) appropriate intervals were computed to enable us to select fewer households for the interview of unmarried compared to married males and married compared to unmarried females.

1.8.2 Selection of individual respondents within selected households

In each PSU, households to be interviewed were selected by systematic sampling. The value of the interval (between one selected household and the next) was determined in advance to ensure a self-weighing design. As mentioned earlier, fewer households needed to be selected in order to obtain our sample of unmarried males and married females. Hence, further intervals were computed, using the target sample for unmarried males and married females.

Within each selected household, no more than one married and one unmarried respondent was interviewed, resulting in a maximum of two interviews from any household. In case more than one respondent from a single category was found in the household, one respondent was selected randomly using the Kish table.[4] No replacement of the respondent thus selected was allowed.

1.8.3 Sample weights

In Bihar, the sample was weighted at the level of the sampling domain, that is, urban and rural males and females, respectively, making for a total of four sampling domains. In order to consider differential non-response rates in different geographical areas, non-response rates were calculated in smaller sub-domains of 2–3 PSUs within each domain. If W_{Di} is the design weight for the i^{th} domain (i=1…4) and R_{Hij} is the response rate for households in the j^{th} sub-domain within the i^{th} domain, then the household weight for the j^{th} sub-domain within the i^{th} domain (W_{Hij}) was calculated as follows:

$$W_{Hij} = \frac{W_{Di}}{R_{Hij}}$$

where W_{Di} was calculated as the inverse of the probability of selecting an eligible married male in urban and rural male domains, respectively; and similarly, of selecting an eligible unmarried female in urban and rural female domains.

Weights were also calculated for eligible married males and unmarried females, denoted by W_{Eij} and calculated as follows:

$$W_{Eij} = \frac{W_{Di}}{R_{Hij} \times R_{Eij} \times K_{ij}}$$

where

R_{Eij} = response rate for married males or unmarried females in the j^{th} sub-domain within the i^{th} domain, and

K_{ij} = probability that a married male or an unmarried female is selected by the Kish table procedure in the j^{th} sub-domain within the i^{th} domain.

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[4] *The probability of selection of individuals in rural areas is (f^R/K_i^R) and in urban areas (f^U/K_i^U), where K_i^R, and K_i^U denote the number of individuals of the specified category (married and unmarried males and females, respectively) in the i^{th} selected household in rural and urban areas, respectively.*

The design weight described above was also used in the case of unmarried males and married females in each domain. Also, since the survey did not attempt to interview an unmarried male or a married female in all selected households, an additional interval needed to be incorporated in the weight calculation. Hence, weights for eligible unmarried males and married females, denoted by W_{Eij} were calculated using the following equation:

$$W_{Eij} = \frac{W_{Di}}{R_{Hij} \times R_{Eij} \times K_{ij}} \times I_i$$

where I_i is the interval at which selected households were assigned for the interview of a married female (in female PSUs) or an unmarried male (in male PSUs) in the i^{th} domain.

The weights were then normalised so that the total number of cases was unchanged after weighting. Hence, the normalised weights for households and eligible respondents were:

$$W'_{Hij} = \frac{\sum n_{ij}}{\sum W_{Hij} \times n_{ij}} \times W_{Hij}$$

$$W'_{Eij} = \frac{\sum n_{ij}}{\sum W_{Eij} \times n_{ij}} \times W_{Eij}$$

where n_{ij} refers to the number of completed interviews in the j^{th} sub-domain within the i^{th} domain.

In order to provide estimates for all young males or females (married and unmarried), multiplication factors were computed for married and unmarried males and females (four categories) in urban and rural areas, which, when multiplied with existing individual weights, provided the combined weights for the male and female samples, respectively. For example, the multiplication factor for the male sample (M^l_k) was computed as follows:

$$M^l_k = \frac{\frac{p^l_k}{p^l}}{\frac{s^l_k}{s^l}}$$

where

- p^l_k = number of eligible male respondents of category k (married or unmarried) in the l^{th} area (urban or rural),
- p^l = number of eligible male respondents in the l^{th} area (urban or rural),
- s^l_k = number of completed interviews with male respondents from category k (married or unmarried) in the l^{th} area (urban or rural), and
- s^l = number of completed interviews with male respondents in the l^{th} area (urban or rural).

Similar fractions were computed for the female sample.

1.9 Recruitment, training and fieldwork

As the survey in Bihar followed that conducted in Jharkhand, available interviewers who had conducted the survey in Jharkhand were also responsible for conducting fieldwork in Bihar. As mentioned in the Jharkhand report, some 80 young men and women had undergone interviewer training prior to the Jharkhand survey and on the basis of their performance, 58 youth were recruited as field investigators. Prior to the initiation of fieldwork in Bihar, a refresher training lasting one week was conducted for 36 young men and women and another 9 received the full three week training two months later. Training of interviewers was conducted jointly by principal investigators from IIPS and the Population Council.

As mentioned in the Jharkhand report, initial training for field investigators for the main survey lasted three weeks. It included lectures and interactive sessions on a range of issues such as the sexual and reproductive health situation of youth in India, an overview of gender issues, ethical issues in research, violence against women and mental health as well as detailed explanations of sex and contraception. Efforts were also made to enable trainees to overcome their own inhibitions about discussing sexual and reproductive health matters. They were provided opportunities to ask questions via an anonymous drop-box; questions were then answered in the course of training. Trainees were familiarised with each module of the questionnaire, complicated concepts and questions and their underlying rationale. Role-plays and mock interviews were conducted in reference to each module. Towards the end of the training programme, field practice sessions were organised in which trainees were taken to a village and an urban slum setting and asked to conduct interviews. . The training team monitored each trainee's progress on a regular basis and selected as interviewers only those trainees who demonstrated full understanding of the questionnaire as well as the ability to ask questions appropriately and record responses accurately. During the refresher training prior to the initiation of the survey in Bihar, the focus was on content of the questionnaire and included role-plays, mock interviews and field practice sessions.

In addition, over 20 individuals underwent training for mapping and house-listing exercises in the course of a four-day training, during which trainees were familiarised with house-listing procedures in both classroom and field situations. All the trainees were then recruited for mapping and house-listing exercises.

Interviewers were divided into eight teams, four each to interview young women and men, respectively. Female interviewers interviewed young women and male interviewers interviewed young men. Each team comprised one field editor to take care of field editing, back-checks and quality control of interviews; and one supervisor, responsible for the overall management of fieldwork and team-related logistics as well as assisting in field editing and back-checking. Interviewer and supervisor/editor manuals were prepared, translated into Hindi and provided to each team member as appropriate. These manuals clarified the meaning and appropriate coding of every question in the questionnaire.

Research officers were deputed to oversee fieldwork and ensure that correct survey procedures were followed and data quality was maintained. Principal investigators from IIPS and the Population Council made monthly or bi-monthly visits to monitor and supervise data collection operations. Each team filled quality control sheets regularly, giving the team, research officers and coordinators a quick view of the quality of ongoing fieldwork. These control sheets were designed to provide information on response rates in each PSU covered, track sensitive issue reporting and interviewer performance.

1.10 Ethical considerations

As this was the first such study of its kind in India, in which sensitive sexual and reproductive experiences were sought in a survey situation, it was unclear how youth respondents and community members would

react. At the same time, it was clear that if youth participated in the interviews, its content was likely to prompt questions and problems for which support would be requested. A number of ethical issues arose which influenced the design and implementation of the Youth Study.

First, to address our concern that if interviews with young women and men were conducted in the same PSU, it could lead to teasing, harassment, harm to girls' reputations and even violence, we decided that the study would be undertaken in one set of PSUs for young men and in a completely different set for young women. Likewise, we also ensured that two unmarried brothers or sisters, two married brothers or sisters or two sisters- or brothers-in-law would not be interviewed from the same household in case such a practice caused conflict within the family. Hence, just one individual from any category was selected for interview in each household. In case both a married and an unmarried individual were selected from a particular household, interviews were conducted separately but simultaneously.

Second, youth themselves contributed—albeit indirectly—to the development of the questionnaire. In the course of our pre-survey qualitative phase, youth and key informants informed our study teams of various youth behaviours; youth described the ways in which they referred to various sensitive behaviours. In order to minimise discomfort during questioning, the scenarios and terminologies described by youth themselves were adapted for use in the most sensitive parts of our questionnaires.

Third, interviewers underwent extensive training in ethical issues. Emphasis was laid on explaining the content of the questionnaire, respondents' right to refuse to participate or answer any question, and informed consent. At the same time, we trained interviewers on how to ask sensitive questions regarding sexual experience, domestic violence and forced sex in particular, in empathetic and non-judgemental ways and emphasised the importance of offering to refer those in need to appropriate nearby organisations.

Fourth, before entering a PSU, teams were instructed to apprise community leaders of the study and seek their support for its implementation in the community. This step ensured that community support was forthcoming and enabled team members to build rapport within the community easily. We note that despite the sensitive nature of the questions, not a single PSU in Bihar refused permission to Youth Study teams on the grounds of study content.

Fifth, even though consent was sought from each individual to be interviewed, in the case of unmarried youth aged 15–17, consent was also sought from a parent or guardian.

Sixth, all questionnaires were entirely anonymous and names were never recorded. In order to preserve the confidentiality of the respondent or the parent/guardian, signature on the consent form was optional; however, the interviewer was required to sign that she or he had explained the contents of the consent form to the respondent or parent. Consent forms were detached and stored separately from questionnaires.

Seventh, every effort was made to maintain privacy in the course of the interview. Interviewers were permitted to skip to relatively non-sensitive sections in case the interview was observed by parents or other family members. If possible, particularly in the case of young men, interviews were held outside the home—often in a nearby field—in order to ensure privacy. Each team was trained to assign one interviewer to conduct parallel discussion sessions with bystanders, thereby providing privacy to the interview. This proved particularly useful in the case of interviews with young women. Finally, interviewers were instructed that if privacy could not be ensured, the interview must be terminated without asking sensitive questions. Due to these strategies, few interviews had to be terminated for want of privacy and in no case was a young respondent's privacy breached.

Eighth, the study team realised that this was perhaps one of the first opportunities many youth would have to discuss intimate matters and that respondents might request information on sexual and reproductive issues or seek counselling or treatment of a health problem. In each state, therefore, the study team approached non-governmental organisations (NGOs) that conducted youth- or health-related activities at the district level and sought their consent for referring any youth in need to their organisation. Many NGOs agreed, and youth (and some adults) in need were later referred to these organisations, along with an indication that the individual had been part of the Youth Study. At the same time, research officers and team members themselves built rapport with public health authorities and referred to their facilities those who preferred to seek public services, again, along with the information that the individual had been part of the Youth Study.

Finally, many youth were in need of information on sexual and reproductive health matters. On occasion, interviewers themselves responded to their questions. In addition, easy to read booklets (for example, the *Neeli Kitab* prepared by TARSHI) were distributed to youth who requested them. In total, some 300 booklets were distributed.

1.11 Data processing

All completed questionnaires were sent to project offices at IIPS, Mumbai and the Population Council, New Delhi for editing and data processing. Completed questionnaires were rechecked and further edited in the office for omissions and consistency. Responses to open-ended questions were scrutinised and common responses were provided codes. For entering the edited data, a special software package was developed using CSPro 3.0. Data were entered twice by different entry operators to minimise entry problems. The raw data were validated and cleaned to remove possible inconsistencies. The analysis of data was carried out using SPSS 14.0.

1.12 Interview outcomes

Table 1.2 provides the outcome of household interviews by type of PSU (male or female) and residence. In all, of the 30,888 households selected for interview, 7% could not be contacted because the house could not be located or was vacant or because the entire household was absent over an extended period of time. In total, however, the response to the household questionnaire was high: 98% and 99% in male and female PSUs, respectively. A total of 10,887 and 17,318 interviews were completed in urban and rural areas, respectively. Response rates in urban and rural areas were almost identical. We note that just two rural households and less than 1% of urban households selected refused to be interviewed.

Table 1.3 presents similar findings with regard to interviews with eligible respondents. In Bihar, 8,136 interviews were completed: 1,115 with married young men, 1,492 with unmarried young men, 2,341 with married young women and 3,188 with unmarried young women. Response rates for individual interviews were in the range of 78–90%; the response rate was the lowest among married young men (78%) and the highest among unmarried young women (90%). Response rates did not vary much by residence or marital status, except that among young women, response rates for unmarried respondents were higher than those for married respondents. The main reason for non-response was that the respondent was not at home, ranging from 8–16% among unmarried respondents to 17–19% among married respondents. The high level of non-response for married and unmarried young men may be attributed to work-related temporary migration, and for married young women to their relatively frequent movement to their natal homes, particularly for delivery, a finding also noted in other studies of married youth (see for example, Santhya et al., 2008). We attribute the low refusal rates to efforts described earlier that were implemented for ethical reasons, which, at the same time, enabled the development of considerable rapport and trust between study communities and our interview teams.

Table 1.2: Results of household interviews

Percent distribution of surveyed households by results of interviews, according to residence (unweighted), Bihar, 2007

Results of interviews	All PSUs		Male PSUs		Female PSUs	
	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number
Combined						
a. Interview completed	91.3	28,205	91.4	8,950	91.3	19,255
b. No respondent or no competent respondent at home at the time of visit	0.7	207	0.8	78	0.6	129
c. Entire household absent for extended period of time	3.4	1,062	3.7	363	3.3	699
d. Refused	0.2	77	0.5	48	0.1	29
e. Dwelling vacant/destroyed/not found	3.2	990	2.9	285	3.3	705
f. Address not a dwelling	0.8	251	0.5	48	1.0	203
g. Other	0.3	96	0.3	25	0.3	71
Total households selected	**100.0**	**30,888**	**100.0**	**9,797**	**100.0**	**21,091**
Response rate (HRR)	98.7		98.3		98.9	
Urban						
a. Interview completed	91.1	10,887	90.2	4,558	91.8	6,329
b. No respondent or no competent respondent at home at the time of visit	0.9	104	0.9	46	0.8	58
c. Entire household absent for extended period of time	3.2	384	3.5	176	3.0	208
d. Refused	0.6	75	0.9	47	0.4	28
e. Dwelling vacant/destroyed/not found	3.3	393	3.5	178	3.1	215
f. Address not a dwelling	0.7	79	0.7	33	0.7	46
g. Other	0.2	23	0.3	13	0.1	10
Total households selected	**100.0**	**11,945**	**100.0**	**5,051**	**100.0**	**6,894**
Response rate (HRR)	98.2		97.7		98.6	
Rural						
a. Interview completed	91.4	17,318	92.5	4,392	91.0	12,926
b. No respondent or no competent respondent at home at the time of visit	0.5	103	0.7	32	0.5	71
c. Entire household absent for extended period of time	3.6	678	3.9	187	3.5	491
d. Refused	0.0	2	0.0	1	0.0	1
e. Dwelling vacant/destroyed/not found	3.2	597	2.3	107	3.5	490
f. Address not a dwelling	0.9	172	0.3	15	1.1	157
g. Other	0.4	73	0.3	12	0.4	61
Total households selected	**100.0**	**18,943**	**100.0**	**4,746**	**100.0**	**14,197**
Response rate (HRR)	99.0		98.9		99.0	

*Note: The household response rate (HRR) was calculated as: HRR= (a/a+b+d+g)*100. PSU: Primary sampling unit.*

Table 1.3: Results of eligible respondent interviews

Percent distribution of eligible respondents by results of interviews, according to residence (unweighted), Bihar, 2007

Results of interviews	Combined				Urban				Rural			
	Married		Unmarried		Married		Unmarried		Married		Unmarried	
	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number
Men (15–24)												
a. Interview completed	77.9	1,115	80.3	1,492	77.6	547	82.8	833	78.2	568	77.3	659
b. Interview partially completed	0.1	2	0.1	2	0.1	1	0.1	1	0.1	1	0.1	1
c. Respondent not at home	19.1	274	15.6	289	17.7	125	12.9	130	20.5	149	18.7	159
d. Respondent refused	1.2	17	0.6	12	1.8	13	0.7	7	0.6	4	0.6	5
e. Respondent's parent refused	0.8	11	1.1	21	1.1	8	1.6	16	0.4	3	0.6	5
f. Respondent incapacitated	0.4	6	1.9	36	0.7	5	1.5	15	0.1	1	2.5	21
g. No reason given	0.4	6	0.3	6	0.9	6	0.4	4	0.0	0	0.2	2
Total selected	**100.0**	**1,431**	**100.0**	**1,858**	**100.0**	**705**	**100.0**	**1,006**	**100.0**	**726**	**100.0**	**852**
Response rate (IRR)	78.0		80.4		77.7		82.8		78.3		77.3	
Women (15–24)												
a. Interview completed	82.0	2,341	90.1	3,188	81.1	1,136	88.8	1,445	82.9	1,205	91.2	1,743
b. Interview partially completed	0.3	8	0.3	11	0.4	5	0.4	6	0.2	3	0.3	5
c. Respondent not at home	16.8	479	7.8	277	17.4	244	8.7	142	16.2	235	7.1	135
d. Respondent refused	0.4	11	0.3	11	0.4	5	0.4	7	0.4	6	0.2	4
e. Respondent's parent refused	0.2	6	0.6	21	0.4	6	1.0	16	0.0	0	0.3	5
f. Respondent incapacitated	0.3	8	0.8	29	0.2	3	0.6	9	0.3	5	1.0	20
g. No reason given	0.1	2	0.1	3	0.1	2	0.2	3	0.0	0	0.0	0
Total selected	**100.0**	**2,855**	**100.0**	**3,540**	**100.0**	**1,401**	**100.0**	**1,628**	**100.0**	**1,454**	**100.0**	**1,912**
Response rate (IRR)	81.9		90.1		81.1		88.8		82.9		91.1	

*Note: The individual response rate (IRR) was calculated as: IRR = (a/a+b+c+d+e+f+g)*100.*

1.13 Structure of the report

This report is structured as follows. Chapter 2 provides a socio-demographic profile of the surveyed population and respondents, and for those living in rural areas, of facilities available to the rural population. Chapters 3, 4 and 5 discuss young people's educational attainment patterns, economic and non-economic activity experiences and media exposure, respectively. Chapter 6 discusses growing up issues, including young people's relationships with parents and peers. Chapters 7 and 8 focus, respectively, on young people's autonomy and gender role attitudes, and awareness of sexual and reproductive health matters. Chapter 9 describes the formation of pre-marital romantic relations and pre-marital sexual experience with romantic and non-romantic partners. Chapter 10 discusses the transition to marriage and experiences in early married life. Chapter 11 presents information on health and health seeking behaviours and substance use. Chapter 12 focuses on civic and political participation and related attitudes. A summary of each chapter (3–12) is provided at its conclusion. Finally, Chapter 13 offers recommendations for programmes and research.

In view of the heterogeneity of youth by sex, marital status and rural-urban residence, in each chapter, tables are presented that describe findings, separately, on the situation of married and unmarried young men and women residing in urban and rural areas, respectively. In order to provide information on all youth in Bihar, we provide findings for all young men and women aged 15–24. We excluded married young men aged 25–29 in order to enable comparison.

All means, medians and percentages indicated in tables have been weighted using normalised weights for the total population. However, in order to show the total number of youth interviewed, unweighted numbers of respondents (Ns) are provided in each table. Because numbers are unweighted and percentages are weighted, we caution readers against deriving numbers based on percentages provided in tables.

Chapter 2

Profile of surveyed communities, households and respondents

This chapter presents a summary of the community-level characteristics of the rural areas surveyed as well as household- and respondent-level profiles of the surveyed population. First, using data drawn from the community questionnaire, it describes the rural communities in which the survey was undertaken in terms of village size, agricultural land holding and access to facilities more generally available in urban settings. Thereafter, drawing on data from the household questionnaire, the chapter profiles surveyed households in terms of socio-demographic and housing characteristics, agricultural land holding and economic status. Comparisons are drawn throughout between the distribution of the population as recorded in the present survey and that reported by the 2001 Census of India (Office of the Registrar General and Census Commissioner, 2001b) as well as the most recent NFHS (IIPS and Macro International, 2008). Finally, we present the socio-demographic characteristics of youth respondents and their parents, drawn from individual questionnaires.

2.1 Profile of rural communities surveyed

This section provides a profile of the rural PSUs (150 selected villages and 7 link villages) in which the survey was conducted. It should be noted that as sampling of rural PSUs was conducted with the probability of selection proportional to size, the proportion of large villages in the Youth Study sample is likely to have been greater than the proportion of such villages in Bihar as a whole. However, because the selection of villages was made from a list of villages stratified by size, this effect of using the probability proportional to size sampling technique on village size distribution is likely to be small.

As indicated in Table 2.1, the vast majority of the villages surveyed were of either medium size (1,000–4,999 persons) or large size (5,000 or more persons); 46% each fell into these two categories. Just 8% of the villages were small in size (less than 1,000 persons). The majority (70%) of villages surveyed contained less than 500 hectares of agricultural land. Nonetheless, most of the agricultural land was irrigated: for example, more than half of all agricultural land was irrigated in over three-quarters of the surveyed villages. Indeed, in half of the surveyed villages, three-quarters or more of the agricultural land was irrigated.

Table 2.2 presents data regarding access to a variety of facilities among the rural population surveyed. Findings show that the median distance to the nearest town was 10 kilometres from the village of residence. Over half of the rural population (53%) reported having an all-weather road in their village. Almost one-fifth (18%) of the rural population had a bank located in their village and over two-fifths (42%) had a post office.

Primary schools were not available in all villages: only 94% of the rural population had access to a primary school in their village of residence. Middle, secondary and higher secondary schools were progressively less likely to be available, and of particular note is that just 14% and 3% of the rural population resided in a village containing a secondary and a higher secondary school, respectively. The median distance to the nearest secondary school was 3 kilometres and to a higher secondary school, 10 kilometres. Colleges and technical institutions were rarely available at the village level; just 1–4% of the population had such a facility

Table 2.1: Profile of surveyed villages

Percentage of surveyed villages and residents by village size and agricultural land holding, Bihar (rural), 2007

Village characteristics	Villages		Residents	
	Percent	Number	Percent	Number
Current population (no. of persons)				
Less than 1,000	8.3	13	5.3	4,885
1,000–4,999	45.9	72	46.8	43,837
5,000–9,999	25.5	40	26.8	25,730
10,000 or more	20.4	32	21.2	19,868
Size of agricultural land (hectares)				
Less than 500	70.1	110	68.9	60,562
500–999	12.1	19	12.3	12,548
1,000–4,999	5.1	8	5.1	4,847
5,000 and more	0.6	1	0.8	406
Proportion of irrigated agricultural land owned				
Less than 25%	8.3	13	8.2	10,091
25–49%	10.2	16	9.6	9,123
50–74%	26.1	41	27.5	27,081
75% or more	50.3	79	49.4	41,269
Total	**100.0**	**157**	**100.0**	**94,320**

Note: All Ns are unweighted. Column totals may not equal 100% or the total number due to missing cases or "don't know" responses.

within the village and the median distance to the nearest college was 15 kilometres and the nearest technical institution, 30 kilometres.

While *anganwadis* were easily accessible, access to other health facilities was very limited; 94% of the population surveyed had an *anganwadi* in the village of residence. In contrast, just 38% had a sub-centre within the village. The median distance to the nearest sub-centre was 2 kilometres. As in the case of education, higher-level facilities were even less accessible: only 10% of the population resided in a village containing a primary health centre. Median distances to the nearest primary health centre, community health centre, and government hospital were as much as 5, 10 and 21 kilometres, respectively, highlighting that access to government health facilities—even primary health centres—remains difficult in the rural areas of Bihar. Moreover, even private clinics or hospitals (including those practising Indian systems of medicine and homoeopathy) were relatively inaccessible to the rural population; only 16% and 4% of rural residents had access to a private clinic and hospital, respectively, within the village and median distances to a private clinic and hospital were 6 and 14 kilometres, respectively.

The availability of civic organisations and entertainment facilities was also assessed and findings again indicate limited access to such facilities. Just 11% of the population resided in villages containing a club or *mandal*. While half (52%) lived in villages containing a community hall, fewer than 10% of rural population lived in villages containing a cinema theatre (5%), drama theatre (8%) or video parlour (9%). Distances to the nearest such facilities were also considerable; for example, the nearest cinema theatre was an average of 10 kilometres from the village. Playgrounds and sports clubs were available in the village of residence to 31% and 8% of the population, respectively; the average distance to the nearest sports club was 12 kilometres.

Table 2.2: Proximity of study residents to selected facilities

Percentage of residents covered by the survey by distance from the nearest facility/service, Bihar (rural), 2007

Nearest facility/service	% of residents						Median distance to nearest facility/ service (km)
	Within village	<2 km	2–5 km	6–9 km	10–19 km	20 km or more	
Town	NA	1.9	17.8	20.9	28.2	29.9	10.0
District headquarters	NA	0.0	2.8	5.4	17.9	73.9	28.0
Railway station	3.2	1.2	19.2	21.1	27.3	28.1	10.0
Transport service to other places	19.1	8.2	41.8	17.7	6.3	6.8	3.0
All-weather road	52.6	5.5	22.6	11.9	4.4	3.0	NC
Post office	41.5	14.4	39.0	2.9	1.9	0.3	1.0
Bank	17.6	8.8	51.3	15.2	6.1	0.9	3.0
Educational facilities							
Primary school	94.3	2.7	3.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	NC
Middle school	59.3	7.6	31.8	1.3	0.0	0.0	NC
Secondary school	13.7	6.3	56.8	14.5	8.2	0.6	3.0
Higher secondary school	3.2	0.8	22.9	21.3	27.0	24.9	10.0
College	3.7	0.0	9.7	15.5	32.4	38.7	15.0
Technical school/college	0.7	0.4	1.3	8.0	15.6	71.8	30.0
Ashram school	1.2	0.7	9.5	7.7	9.7	21.8	15.0
Madarsa	32.8	5.5	31.6	16.7	8.1	4.0	3.0
Any of the above	95.6	2.0	2.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	NC
Health facilities							
ICDS (*anganwadi*)	93.5	0.9	3.8	0.7	0.0	0.0	NC
Sub-centre	37.7	9.1	37.6	8.5	3.9	1.3	2.0
Primary health centre	9.6	4.5	38.2	29.5	14.9	3.4	5.0
Community health centre	1.3	1.1	21.9	14.0	27.6	20.5	10.0
Government dispensary	2.3	0.8	11.4	8.1	12.7	27.0	14.0
Government hospital	2.7	0.8	7.7	8.4	22.7	57.7	21.0
Private clinic, including ISMH	15.8	3.7	27.8	16.9	16.0	19.2	6.0
Private hospital	3.9	0.0	15.5	12.8	29.1	38.8	14.0
Any of the above	95.5	1.2	3.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	NC
Club/*Mandal*	10.7	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Entertainment/sports facilities							
Community hall	51.7	3.9	29.1	5.5	3.0	5.3	NC
Playground	30.9	5.2	40.0	10.9	7.3	5.0	3.0
Sports club	8.3	0.0	18.5	12.3	20.3	34.5	12.0
Video parlour	9.0	0.4	20.2	19.5	22.0	13.1	8.0
Cinema theatre	4.6	1.3	17.8	21.3	31.7	23.4	10.0
Drama theatre	7.8	7.2	7.8	13.4	24.4	39.4	12.0
Any of the above	64.7	2.2	27.8	3.9	0.6	0.7	NC

Note: ICDS: Integrated Child Development Services. ISMH: Indian systems of medicine and homoeopathy. NA: Not applicable. NC: Median cannot be calculated.

2.2 Profile of the household population: Age-sex distribution

Age and sex distributions play an important role in the study of demographic processes. Details of the age and sex distribution of the *de jure* population in the survey area are presented in Table 2.3. Corresponding distributions from the 2001 Census are provided to enable comparison.

The age distribution was typical of a high fertility population, with a larger proportion of the population in the younger age groups than other age groups. Indeed, the virtually identical proportions of the population aged 0–4 recorded in 2001 and 2006 suggest unchanging levels of fertility, In comparison, total fertility rates recorded in NFHS-3 suggest some increase in fertility (3.7 and 4.0 in 1998–99 and 2005–06, respectively (IIPS and Macro International 2008).

With regard to the youth population, the distribution suggests that at the time of the survey, 13% of the population was aged 10–14 years, 9% was aged 15–19 years and 7% was aged 20–24 years. A total of 16.5% of the population was aged 15–24 years, similar to that observed in the 2001 Census (16.3%) (Office of the Registrar General and Census Commissioner, 2001b).

Table 2.3: Distribution of the surveyed population by age and sex

Percent distribution of the surveyed population by age and sex, according to residence, Bihar, 2007, and population distribution as reported in the 2001 Census for Bihar

Age (years) (%)	Youth Study, 2007			Census, 2001		
	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
Combined						
Below 1	2.7	2.8	2.6	1.7	1.7	1.7
1–4	11.7	12.4	11.1	11.6	11.3	11.9
5–9	15.9	16.7	15.2	15.4	15.5	15.3
10–14	13.2	14.3	12.1	13.3	13.8	12.8
15–19	9.3	8.6	9.9	8.7	9.3	8.0
20–24	7.2	5.6	8.7	7.6	7.4	7.9
25–29	6.3	5.5	7.0	7.1	6.7	7.6
30–34	5.9	5.2	6.6	6.7	6.3	7.1
35–39	5.8	6.0	5.6	6.1	6.0	6.3
40–44	4.6	4.5	4.7	5.0	5.1	4.9
45–49	4.3	4.3	4.3	4.2	4.1	4.2
50–54	3.4	3.6	3.2	3.3	3.6	2.9
55–59	2.7	2.7	2.8	2.5	2.3	2.7
60–64	2.8	3.0	2.6	2.5	2.6	2.5
65–69	1.9	2.0	1.7	1.6	1.6	1.7
70–74	1.3	1.6	1.0	1.2	1.3	1.2
75 and above	1.0	1.2	0.9	1.2	1.3	1.2
Age not stated	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.2	0.2
Number	**156,197**	**78,553**	**77,639**	**82,998,509**	**43,243,795**	**39,754,714**
Median age (years)	18.0	16.0	19.0	19.5	19.1	20.2
Sex ratio, all ages[1]	1,043	NA	NA	919	NA	NA
Sex ratio, age 0–6 years[1]	935	NA	NA	942	NA	NA

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Table 2.3: (Cont'd)

Age (years) (%)	Youth Study, 2007			Census, 2001		
	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
Urban						
Below 1	1.9	2.0	1.8	1.2	1.2	1.3
1–4	8.8	8.8	8.9	9.4	9.0	9.8
5–9	12.6	13.0	12.1	13.2	12.9	13.4
10–14	12.7	12.9	12.5	13.6	13.6	13.7
15–19	11.3	11.2	11.3	10.7	11.2	10.1
20–24	9.1	8.5	9.7	8.8	9.2	8.3
25–29	7.2	7.0	7.4	7.5	7.4	7.7
30–34	6.7	6.5	7.0	6.8	6.5	7.1
35–39	6.5	6.8	6.3	6.5	6.3	6.8
40–44	5.2	5.2	5.1	5.4	5.5	5.2
45–49	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.6	4.7	4.5
50–54	3.6	3.7	3.6	3.4	3.8	3.1
55–59	2.9	2.9	2.9	2.5	2.5	2.6
60–64	2.7	2.7	2.8	2.3	2.3	2.3
65–69	1.9	2.0	1.8	1.6	1.5	1.6
70–74	1.2	1.3	1.1	1.1	1.2	1.1
75 and above	1.2	1.2	1.1	1.2	1.1	1.2
Age not stated	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.2	0.1
Number	**61,877**	**32,141**	**29,735**	**8,681,800**	**4,648,799**	**4,033,001**
Median age (years)	20.7	20.0	21.0	21.0	21.1	21.0
Sex ratio, all ages[1]	926	NA	NA	868	NA	NA
Sex ratio, age 0–6 years[1]	901	NA	NA	924	NA	NA
Rural						
Below 1	2.8	2.8	2.7	1.7	1.7	1.7
1–4	12.0	12.7	11.3	11.9	11.6	12.1
5–9	16.2	17.0	15.4	15.7	15.8	15.6
10–14	13.3	14.5	12.1	13.3	13.8	12.7
15–19	9.1	8.4	9.7	8.4	9.1	7.7
20–24	7.0	5.3	8.7	7.5	7.1	7.9
25–29	6.2	5.3	7.0	7.1	6.6	7.6
30–34	5.8	5.1	6.5	6.7	6.2	7.1
35–39	5.7	6.0	5.5	6.1	5.9	6.2
40–44	4.5	4.4	4.6	5.0	5.1	4.8
45–49	4.3	4.3	4.2	4.1	4.0	4.2
50–54	3.4	3.6	3.2	3.2	3.5	2.9
55–59	2.7	2.7	2.7	2.5	2.3	2.7
60–64	2.8	3.0	2.6	2.6	2.6	2.5
65–69	1.9	2.0	1.7	1.6	1.6	1.7
70–74	1.3	1.6	1.0	1.3	1.3	1.2
75 and above	1.0	1.2	0.9	1.2	1.3	1.2
Age not stated	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.2	0.2
Number	**94,320**	**46,412**	**47,904**	**74,316,709**	**38,594,996**	**35,721,713**
Median age (years)	18.0	16.0	18.0	19.4	18.8	20.1
Sex ratio, all ages[1]	1,055	NA	NA	926	NA	NA
Sex ratio, age 0–6 years[1]	938	NA	NA	944	NA	NA

Note: All Ns are unweighted. NA: Not applicable. [1]Sex ratio is defined as the number of females per 1,000 males.

Overall, the sex ratio of the *de jure* population of the state was 1,043 females per 1,000 males, considerably higher than that observed in 2001 Census (919). Similar patterns were evident in both urban (926 versus 868) and rural areas (1,055 versus 926).The increase in the sex ratio is likely the result of increased employment-related out-migration of single young men. The child sex ratio of the state was 935 females per 1,000 males aged 0–6, close to that reported in the 2001 Census (942). While the child sex ratio in the rural areas was similar to that observed in the 2001 Census (938 and 944, respectively), the urban child sex ratio observed in the Youth Study was somewhat lower (901 and 924, respectively). Even in the urban areas, standard errors were relatively small and the 95% confidence interval ranged from 863 to 939, suggesting no significant change in the urban child sex ratio between the census and the Youth Survey.

2.3 Profile of the household population: Marital status

Table 2.4 presents the marital status distribution of the surveyed population, classified by age, residence and sex. A comparison with the marital status distribution as obtained in the 2001 Census (data not shown in tabular form) suggests a similar distribution, except that proportions never married, particularly in the ages 10–19 for females and 10–24 for males, have increased somewhat in the period 2001–06 (Office of the Registrar General and Census Commissioner, 2001b). The currently married include both those who have married and cohabited with their spouse as well as those for whom cohabitation has not been initiated, that is, for whom gauna was not performed.

Findings suggest wide gender differences in marriage age distributions, notably between the ages of 15 and 29: of those aged 15–19 years, just 7% of young men compared to 39% of young women were currently married. This increased to 48% and 90%, respectively, for those aged 20–24 years and further to 83% and 97% for those aged 25–29 years. Patterns were similar for both rural and urban areas, but larger percentages of both young men and women were married in each age group up to age 30 in rural versus urban areas.

Table 2.4 also provides estimates of the singulate mean age at marriage (SMAM), calculated from the age-specific proportion of never-married individuals obtained in the household survey. As suggested above, the singulate mean age at marriage was considerably higher among the male population compared to the female: 23 and 18 years, respectively, indicating that women tended to marry men who were an average of five years older than themselves. Differences were also observed by rural-urban residence, with the singulate mean age at marriage 3–4 years higher among urban youth compared to rural youth.

In order to assess age at marriage among those married more recently, the Youth Study household questionnaire asked specifically about marriages that had taken place in the three years prior to interview among the household's usual residents at that time. Table 2.5 suggests that the median age at marriage for those who married in the recent past was 21 years among young men and 17 years among young women. Rural-urban differences were evident; the median age at marriage for urban men was three years higher than for rural men (24 and 21 years, respectively), and for urban women, two years higher than for rural women (19 and 17 years, respectively). Findings also show that large proportions of both young women and men had married before the legal minimum age at marriage. Over half of young women (52%) had married before they were aged 18—the legal minimum age at marriage for females. Over two-fifths of young men (44%) had married before they were 21, the legal minimum age at marriage for males. It is also notable that 12% of young men had married even earlier, that is, before age 18. Rural-urban differences were notable: rural females and males were twice as likely as their urban counterparts to marry before the legal minimum age at marriage (55% and 28% of rural and urban females, respectively; 46% and 22% of rural and urban males, respectively).

Table 2.4: Marital status of the surveyed population

Percent distribution of the surveyed population aged 6 years and above by marital status and sex, according to residence, Bihar, 2007

Age (years) (%)	Marital status					
	Male			Female		
	Never married	Currently married[1]	Separated/ divorced/ widowed	Never married	Currently married[1]	Separated/ divorced/ widowed
Combined						
6–9	99.3	0.1	0.0	99.5	0.1	0.0
10–14	99.4	0.3	0.0	98.1	1.7	0.0
15–19	92.7	7.2	0.1	60.7	39.0	0.2
20–24	51.6	48.0	0.5	8.9	90.1	1.0
25–29	15.9	83.2	0.9	1.5	97.0	1.5
30 and above	1.3	91.5	7.2	0.2	82.0	17.7
Total	**48.3**	**48.4**	**3.1**	**36.9**	**55.6**	**7.4**
SMAM[2] (years)		**22.8**			**18.1**	
Urban						
6–9	99.2	0.3	0.0	99.4	0.0	0.0
10–14	99.6	0.2	0.0	99.3	0.6	0.0
15–19	98.1	1.9	0.0	81.1	18.6	0.1
20–24	77.4	22.6	0.0	31.6	67.1	1.3
25–29	42.8	56.6	0.6	6.3	91.6	2.0
30 and above	3.5	91.3	5.2	0.5	81.1	18.4
Total	**51.8**	**45.8**	**2.3**	**40.2**	**51.7**	**8.0**
SMAM[2] (years)		**26.1**			**20.7**	
Rural						
6–9	99.3	0.1	0.0	99.5	0.1	0.0
10–14	99.4	0.3	0.0	98.0	1.8	0.0
15–19	91.9	8.0	0.1	58.5	41.2	0.2
20–24	47.3	52.2	0.5	6.5	92.5	1.0
25–29	12.2	86.8	1.0	1.0	97.5	1.5
30 and above	1.1	91.5	7.4	0.2	82.0	17.7
Total	**47.9**	**48.7**	**3.2**	**36.6**	**55.9**	**7.3**
SMAM[2] (years)		**22.3**			**17.8**	

Note: Row totals may not equal 100% due to missing cases or "don't know" responses. [1]Includes both those who are currently married and cohabiting as well as those who have not yet initiated cohabitation. [2]SMAM: Singulate mean age at marriage (for those whose first marriage occurred between the ages of 6 and 55 years).

Table 2.5: Age at marriage of usual residents of households

Age at marriage of usual residents of surveyed households who were married in the three years preceding the interview, according to residence, Bihar, 2007

Age at marriage	Combined	Urban	Rural
Median age at marriage of usual residents married in the 3 years preceding the interview (years)			
Male	21.0	24.0	21.0
Female	17.0	19.0	17.0
Of those married in last 3 years, males married (%):			
Before age 18	12.0	3.1	12.9
Before age 21	43.5	21.7	45.6
Of those married in last 3 years, females married before age 18 (%)	52.2	28.0	54.6

2.4 Profile of the household population: Educational attainment

Table 2.6 shows the percent distribution of the surveyed population aged 6 years and above by educational level and median years of schooling according to sex, age and residence. Findings highlight low levels of educational attainment of the state's population. Over half (52%) of the population aged 6 years and above had no formal education. More females than males fell into this group: 65% and 40%, respectively. Rural-urban differences were also wide: about one-third (30%) of the urban population compared to over half (55%) of the rural population had never been to school. Reaffirming the low levels of educational attainment in the state, findings also indicate that just 6% of the total population had received 12 or more years of education. Gender and rural-urban differences remained evident: 9% and 3% of males and females, respectively, and 19% and 4% of the urban and rural populations, respectively, had reached this level of education. The median years of schooling was 3 years for males and, as discussed earlier, almost two-thirds of females had never been to school. Rural-urban differences show that while the urban population had completed on average six years of schooling, as discussed earlier, over half of the rural population had never been to school.

2.5 Profile of the household population: Work participation

Table 2.7 presents the percentage distribution of the surveyed population aged 6 years and above reported to have been working in the seven days prior to interview according to sex and residence. While 36% of the total population was reported as working, a considerably larger percentage of males (55%) than females (18%) were working. Rural-urban differences suggest that more rural than urban females were reported as working (19% versus 8%). In comparison, percentages of working males were similar in urban and rural areas (54% and 55%, respectively). A positive association between age and work was observed: 6% of those aged 10–14 reported working, compared with 25% of those aged 15–19, 39% in the 20–24 year age group and continued increases thereafter (reaching 60% among those aged 30 and above). Age-specific increases were much sharper among males than females.

Table 2.6: Educational attainment

Percent distribution of the surveyed population aged 6 years and above by educational level and median years of schooling, according to age, sex and residence, Bihar, 2007

Age (years)	Completed years of schooling (%)				No. of persons	Median years of schooling
	None[1]	1–7	8–11	12 and above		
Combined						
Total						
6–9	64.2	35.1	0.0	0.0	17,727	NC
10–14	28.2	66.9	4.6	0.0	20,320	3.0
15–19	34.0	27.7	33.6	4.4	15,959	6.0
20–24	45.6	18.0	23.5	12.8	12,447	4.0
25–29	51.4	15.8	21.6	11.0	10,207	NC
30 and above	64.4	13.1	14.5	7.7	54,018	NC
Total	**52.4**	**27.3**	**14.2**	**5.6**	**130,693**	**NC**
Male						
6–9	61.7	37.4	0.0	0.0	9,157	NC
10–14	21.1	73.1	5.4	0.0	10,801	3.0
15–19	22.0	29.8	42.3	5.7	7,739	7.0
20–24	26.0	21.5	31.1	21.3	5,364	8.0
25–29	32.9	19.6	29.3	18.0	4,810	7.0
30 and above	46.7	17.4	22.2	13.0	27,419	3.7
Total	**39.5**	**32.2**	**19.0**	**8.8**	**65,297**	**3.0**
Female						
6–9	66.8	32.7	0.0	0.0	8,570	NC
10–14	36.2	59.8	3.7	0.0	9,518	2.0
15–19	44.1	26.0	26.3	3.4	8,220	4.0
20–24	57.7	15.8	18.8	7.5	7,083	NC
25–29	65.2	13.0	15.8	5.8	5,396	NC
30 and above	81.7	8.8	6.8	2.5	26,597	NC
Total	**64.5**	**22.8**	**9.7**	**2.7**	**65,392**	**NC**
Urban						
Total						
6–9	56.6	42.7	0.0	0.0	6,105	NC
10–14	16.1	72.4	11.3	0.0	7,851	4.0
15–19	16.6	19.7	49.1	14.4	7,033	9.0
20–24	20.3	13.8	29.0	36.7	5,625	10.0
25–29	22.6	13.5	28.7	34.8	4,421	10.0
30 and above	36.3	14.8	22.6	25.6	22,497	7.0
Total	**30.3**	**26.9**	**23.0**	**19.4**	**53,536**	**6.0**
Male						
6–9	56.9	42.5	0.0	0.0	3,264	NC
10–14	14.5	73.4	11.9	0.0	4,128	4.0
15–19	13.4	19.2	52.7	14.6	3,640	9.0
20–24	13.5	13.2	29.4	43.9	2,737	10.0
25–29	14.2	12.6	29.3	43.7	2,248	10.0
30 and above	22.2	14.0	26.4	36.5	11,757	10.0
Total	**22.5**	**26.7**	**25.1**	**25.2**	**27,775**	**8.0**

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Table 2.6: (Cont'd)

Age (years)	Completed years of schooling (%)				No. of persons	Median years of schooling
	None[1]	1–7	8–11	12 and above		
Urban						
Female						
6–9	56.2	43.0	0.0	0.0	2,841	NC
10–14	17.9	71.4	10.6	0.0	3,723	4.0
15–19	20.0	20.3	45.3	14.3	3,393	9.0
20–24	26.7	14.4	28.6	30.0	2,888	9.0
25–29	31.2	14.5	28.2	25.9	2,172	8.0
30 and above	51.8	15.8	18.5	13.7	10,740	NC
Total	**38.6**	**27.2**	**20.8**	**13.1**	**25,760**	**4.0**
Rural						
Total						
6–9	64.8	34.5	0.0	0.0	11,622	NC
10–14	29.3	66.3	4.0	0.0	12,469	3.0
15–19	36.2	28.7	31.7	3.2	8,926	5.0
20–24	48.8	18.5	22.8	9.8	6,822	2.0
25–29	54.7	16.1	20.8	8.3	5,786	NC
30 and above	67.4	12.9	13.6	5.7	31,521	NC
Total	**54.7**	**27.4**	**13.3**	**4.2**	**77,157**	**NC**
Male						
6–9	62.1	37.0	0.0	0.0	5,893	NC
10–14	21.7	73.1	4.9	0.0	6,673	3.0
15–19	23.2	31.3	40.9	4.4	4,099	7.0
20–24	28.1	22.9	31.4	17.6	2,627	7.0
25–29	35.5	20.5	29.4	14.5	2,562	6.0
30 and above	49.5	17.8	21.7	10.3	15,662	2.0
Total	**41.4**	**32.8**	**18.3**	**6.9**	**37,522**	**2.0**
Female						
6–9	67.5	31.9	0.0	0.0	5,729	NC
10–14	38.0	58.7	3.0	0.0	5,795	2.0
15–19	46.7	26.6	24.2	2.2	4,827	3.0
20–24	60.9	15.9	17.8	5.2	4,195	NC
25–29	68.5	12.8	14.6	3.8	3,224	NC
30 and above	84.7	8.1	5.7	1.4	15,857	NC
Total	**67.0**	**22.4**	**8.7**	**1.7**	**39,632**	**NC**

Note: All Ns are unweighted. Row totals may not equal 100% due to missing cases or "don't know" responses. NC: Median cannot be calculated as more than 50% had no formal education. [1]Includes non-literate and literate with no formal schooling.

Table 2.7: Work participation

Percent distribution of the surveyed population aged 6 years and above by work participation, according to age, sex and residence, Bihar, 2007

Age (years) (%)	Combined			Urban			Rural		
	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
6–9	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.2	0.3	0.2	0.4	0.4	0.4
10–14	5.8	7.1	4.4	3.6	6.1	1.0	6.0	7.2	4.8
15–19	24.5	40.3	11.3	16.1	28.2	3.1	25.5	42.0	12.1
20–24	39.4	76.7	16.3	31.4	58.7	5.3	40.4	79.6	17.4
25–29	53.7	92.7	24.5	45.6	82.6	8.2	54.6	94.1	26.1
30 and above	59.6	88.9	30.8	52.0	86.8	14.0	60.4	89.1	32.5
Total	**35.9**	**54.7**	**18.2**	**31.6**	**53.9**	**7.7**	**36.3**	**54.8**	**19.2**

Note: Work participation is defined as reported work activity in the seven days prior to interview.

2.6 Socio-demographic characteristics of households and heads of households

Table 2.8 presents selected characteristics pertaining to households and their heads, according to residence, for all households as well as for those containing youth eligible for interview (that is, all young women aged 15–24 years, unmarried young men aged 15–24 years and married young men aged 15–29 years).

Findings suggest that heads of households were overwhelmingly male and about half (49%) were aged 45 years and above with similar distributions observed for heads of both rural and urban households. Age differences suggest that heads of households that contained youth eligible for interview in the Youth Study were somewhat older than heads of all households: for example, the age of the head of household was 45 years or more among 56% of households that contained youth eligible for interview compared to 49% of all households. These differences were more prominent in urban than rural areas.

Table 2.8: Socio-demographic characteristics of households and heads of households

Percent distribution of all surveyed households and households containing youth eligible for interview by selected socio-demographic characteristics of heads of households, household size and type of family, according to residence, Bihar, 2007

Socio-demographic characteristics (%)	Combined		Urban		Rural	
	All households	Households with youth	All households	Households with youth	All households	Households with youth
Sex of household head						
Male	83.4	88.7	89.5	90.0	82.9	88.6
Female	16.6	11.3	10.5	10.0	17.1	11.4
Current age of household head (years)						
Below 25	5.1	8.9	4.6	6.4	5.2	9.2
25–34	19.6	19.0	15.2	13.1	20.0	19.6
35–44	26.5	16.7	27.8	17.8	26.4	16.6
45–54	22.3	28.3	23.8	32.0	22.1	27.8
55 and above	26.5	27.2	28.6	30.7	26.3	26.8

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Table 2.8 (Cont'd)

Socio-demographic characteristics (%)	Combined		Urban		Rural	
	All households	Households with youth	All households	Households with youth	All households	Households with youth
Religion of household head						
Hindu	84.2	85.8	82.7	81.6	84.4	86.3
Muslim	15.7	14.1	16.8	18.1	15.6	13.7
Christian	0.1	0.0	0.2	0.1	0.0	0.0
Other[1]	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.2	0.0	0.0
Caste/tribe of household head						
SC	20.7	21.4	11.3	12.5	21.6	22.4
ST	1.1	0.9	0.5	0.4	1.1	1.0
OBC	61.2	61.2	58.5	60.4	61.5	61.3
General[2]	16.9	16.3	29.6	26.6	15.7	15.2
Caste/tribe unknown	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
Schooling of household head (years)						
None[3]	54.2	49.9	27.3	28.4	56.7	52.3
1–7	17.3	19.4	15.2	16.9	17.5	19.7
8–10	18.7	21.2	25.7	27.1	18.1	20.6
11–12	3.8	4.1	9.4	10.2	3.3	3.5
Above 12	5.3	4.9	21.7	16.7	3.8	3.6
Current work status of household head[4]						
Working	84.1	86.2	80.4	80.6	84.5	86.8
Not working	15.8	13.7	19.5	19.3	15.4	13.1
Number of members in the household						
1	3.2	0.5	4.0	1.3	3.1	0.4
2	9.1	4.4	7.6	3.8	9.2	4.5
3	10.8	10.2	9.3	7.0	10.9	10.5
4	15.0	15.1	15.5	13.9	15.0	15.2
5	18.0	16.9	17.3	16.6	18.0	16.9
6	15.5	14.3	15.4	15.1	15.5	14.2
7 or more	28.5	38.7	30.7	42.3	28.3	38.3
Mean household size	5.5	6.3	5.7	6.6	5.4	6.3
Type of family						
Nuclear	59.1	42.8	55.9	44.8	59.4	42.6
Non-nuclear	40.9	57.2	44.1	55.2	40.6	57.4
Households with at least one literate member aged 18 and above	59.6	70.5	84.9	88.6	57.2	68.5
Number of households	**28,205**	**11,810**	**10,887**	**4,794**	**17,318**	**7,016**

Note: All Ns are unweighted. Column totals may not equal 100% due to missing cases or "don't know" responses. OBC: Other backward caste. SC: Scheduled caste. ST: Scheduled tribe. [1]Includes Buddhist/Neo-Buddhist, Sikh, Jain, Jewish, Parsi/Zoroastrian and no specified religion. [2]Includes all those not belonging to SC, ST or OBC. [3]Includes non-literate and literate with no formal schooling. [4]Defined as reported work activity in the seven days prior to interview.

Distributions by religion suggest that 84% of household heads were Hindu and 16% were Muslim. Distributions were similar among all households and those containing youth eligible for interview in the Youth Study, irrespective of rural and urban residence. As far as caste was concerned, the largest group belonged to other backward castes (61%), followed by scheduled castes (21%) and general castes (17%). Rural-urban differences were evident. The rural population consisted of a much larger proportion of households belonging to scheduled castes than did urban population (22% and 11%, respectively). In contrast, the urban population consisted of a much larger proportion of households belonging to general castes than did the rural population (30% and 16%, respectively).

Educational attainment levels suggest that over half of all heads of households had no schooling and another one-sixth had only 1–7 years of schooling. Just as educational distributions differed for the general population, here too, heads of households in urban areas were better-educated than their rural counterparts; almost one-third of those in urban areas had 12 or more years of education compared to fewer than one-tenth of heads of households in rural areas. The vast majority of heads of households reported working in the last seven days (84%), and rural-urban differences were modest.

Households contained an average of 5.5 members. This number was higher (6.3) among those containing youth eligible for interview in the Youth Study. Rural-urban differences were modest. As far as family type was concerned, about three-fifths of all households, irrespective of rural-urban residence, consisted of a nuclear family. However, among households containing youth eligible for interview in the Youth Study, fewer were nuclear: 43%, with little rural-urban variation (43% in rural areas and 45% in urban areas).

Finally, 60% of all households contained at least one literate member aged 18 and above, a percentage that was somewhat higher (71%) in households containing eligible youth. Rural-urban differences were quite wide: 85% and 57% of urban and rural households, respectively, contained at least one literate member aged 18 and above, as did 89% and 69%, respectively, of those containing eligible youth.

2.7 Profile of the household population: Housing characteristics

Table 2.9 provides information on ownership of residence, housing quality, access to basic amenities and indicators of crowding. Information was obtained from responses to the household questionnaire and, in the case of housing type, interviewer observations. Information is presented by rural-urban residence separately for all surveyed households and households containing youth eligible for the Youth Study. The characteristics of both types of households are basically similar.

Almost all households (97%), irrespective of whether or not they contained youth, owned the structure in which they resided. Considerably more rural than urban households, however, reported owning their residence (99% and 74%, respectively). Overall, interviewers observed that over half of all households (53%) lived in *kachcha* houses (constructed from mud, thatch or other low-quality materials), 25% lived in semi-*pucca* houses (constructed using a mix of low- and high-quality materials) and 22% lived in *pucca* houses (constructed entirely from cement, masonry or other high-quality materials).

Most residential structures contained 1 (35%) or 2–3 (49%) rooms; urban households were more likely to report 4 or more rooms than rural households (27% and 15% respectively). The mean number of persons per room was 3.0 for all households and 3.1 for those containing eligible youth. Rural-urban differences were modest.

Table 2.9: Housing characteristics

Percent distribution of all surveyed households and households containing youth eligible for interview by selected housing characteristics, according to residence, Bihar, 2007

Housing characteristics (%)	Combined		Urban		Rural	
	All households	Households with youth	All households	Households with youth	All households	Households with youth
Ownership of residence						
Yes	96.7	96.9	73.5	77.5	98.9	99.0
No	3.3	3.1	26.5	22.4	1.1	1.0
Type of house						
Kachcha	53.2	50.3	15.8	15.4	56.7	54.1
Semi-*pucca*	24.9	25.7	22.4	23.6	25.1	26.0
Pucca	21.8	23.9	61.7	61.0	18.1	19.9
Number of rooms in the house[1]						
1	35.4	29.6	24.8	19.7	36.4	30.7
2–3	49.1	49.2	48.5	49.4	49.1	49.2
4–5	10.8	13.9	19.0	21.2	10.0	13.1
6 or more	4.8	7.2	7.7	9.7	4.5	6.9
Average number of persons per room						
Up to 2	53.3	51.5	64.9	63.2	52.2	50.3
3–4	28.5	31.6	21.8	24.1	29.2	32.4
5–6	13.0	12.0	9.2	8.5	13.3	12.3
More than 6	5.2	4.9	4.1	4.2	5.3	5.0
Mean number of persons per room	3.0	3.1	2.6	2.7	3.0	3.1
Source of lighting						
Electricity	13.9	15.8	71.2	70.8	8.5	9.8
Kerosene	85.7	83.9	28.6	29.0	91.0	89.9
Other lighting sources[2]	0.4	0.3	0.1	0.2	0.4	0.3
Source of drinking water						
Own piped water/ hand-pump/covered well	44.6	48.8	59.6	62.6	43.2	47.3
Public piped water/ hand-pump/covered well	48.6	44.5	36.9	33.8	49.7	45.6
Own open well	1.1	1.1	1.1	0.9	1.1	1.1
Public open well	5.8	5.6	2.4	2.5	6.1	5.9
Surface water[3]	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.0

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Table 2.9: (Cont'd)

Housing characteristics (%)	Combined		Urban		Rural	
	All households	Households with youth	All households	Households with youth	All households	Households with youth
Toilet facility						
Own flush toilet	9.4	11.2	43.6	45.1	6.2	7.5
Shared flush toilet	3.5	3.2	17.6	15.4	2.1	1.9
Own pit toilet	2.8	3.3	7.0	7.6	2.4	2.9
Shared pit toilet	1.1	1.0	4.7	4.2	0.8	0.7
No toilet facility	83.1	81.2	27.1	27.6	88.4	87.1
Main type of fuel used for cooking						
Liquid petroleum gas	5.3	5.5	47.4	43.8	1.4	1.4
Bio-gas	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.1
Kerosene	0.4	0.3	1.6	1.0	0.3	0.2
Wood/crop residue/ dung cakes/coal/charcoal	94.1	94.1	50.6	54.9	98.2	98.3
Other types of fuel[4]	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.0
Number of households	**28,205**	**11,810**	**10,887**	**4,794**	**17,318**	**7,016**

Note: All Ns are unweighted. Column totals may not equal 100% due to missing cases or "don't know" responses. [1]Excludes toilets/bathrooms but includes kitchen. [2]Includes oil, gas, etc. [3]Includes water of a spring, river, stream, pond, lake or dam. [4]Includes electricity, straw, shrubs and grass.

Respondents were asked about their household's main source of lighting and drinking water. In addition, information was gathered on toilet facilities typically accessed, and cooking fuel generally used. As Table 2.9 shows, only 14% of households had electricity, including 71% of urban households and 9% of rural households, while percentages reporting electricity in urban areas are almost identical to those reported in NFHS-3 (74%), percentages so reporting in rural areas is considerably higher in NFHS-3 (19%)). The vast majority of households (93%) reported that their main source of drinking water was either piped water, water obtained from a hand-pump or a covered well (while not entirely comparable, 96% of households reported that they have access to an improved source of drinking water, defined to include piped water, tube-well or borehole, protected well or spring, rainwater or bottled water in NFHS-3, IIPS and Macro International, 2008). These facilities were reported as self-owned for 45% and as public or shared facilities for the remaining 49%. Rural-urban differences were negligible with respect to access to these safe sources of drinking water (97% and 93% of urban and rural households, respectively); however, urban households were more likely to report self-owned facilities than rural households (60% versus 43%).

Access to a toilet facility of any kind was reported by a few—just one-sixth of all households (17%, compared to 25% as assessed in NFHS-3; IIPS and Macro International, 2008). Large rural-urban differences were observed: 88% of rural households, compared to 27% of urban households had no access to toilet facilities.

Finally, the main source of cooking fuel was coal, charcoal, wood, crop residue or dung cakes, reported by 94% of all households (compared to 90% reported in NFHS-3; IIPS and Macro International, 2008), and 98% of all rural households compared to 51% of urban households. Liquid petroleum gas was used, in contrast, by just 5% of all households, that is,1% in rural areas to 47% in urban areas. Patterns of access to

these facilities in households containing youth eligible for interview in the Youth Study were similar to those observed for all households, described above.

2.8 Profile of the household population: Ownership of agricultural land

Table 2.10 presents information on ownership of agricultural land for households in both rural and urban areas (irrigated and non-irrigated). Most households, irrespective of whether or not they contained youth eligible for interview, either owned no land (50–53%) or owned marginal holdings (35–37%). These proportions were much higher for urban households (70% and 14%, respectively) than for rural households (51% and 37%, respectively). About two-fifths of all households reported owning some irrigated land.

Table 2.10: Household ownership of agricultural land

Percent distribution of all surveyed households and households containing youth eligible for interview by ownership of agricultural land, according to residence, Bihar, 2007

Land holding (%)	Combined		Urban		Rural	
	All households	Households with youth	All households	Households with youth	All households	Households with youth
Land holding (in acres)						
Landless	52.5	49.8	69.8	70.0	50.8	47.6
Marginal (≤2.50)	35.3	36.6	14.4	15.2	37.3	38.9
Small (2.51–5.00)	4.1	5.2	4.0	4.1	4.1	5.3
Medium (5.01–10.00)	1.7	2.2	2.5	2.2	1.7	2.2
Large (>10.00)	3.8	3.8	2.6	2.2	3.9	4.0
Own any irrigated land	37.1	39.5	20.3	20.7	38.7	41.5
Number of households	**28,205**	**11,810**	**10,887**	**4,794**	**17,318**	**7,016**

Note: All Ns are unweighted. Column totals may not equal 100% due to missing cases or "don't know" responses.

2.9 Profile of the household population: Overall economic status

Household economic status was measured using a wealth index, composed of household asset data on ownership of selected durable goods, including means of transportation, as well as data on access to a number of amenities. The wealth index was constructed by allocating the following scores to a household's reported assets or amenities:

Type of house: 2 for *pucca*; 1 for semi-*pucca*; 0 for *kachcha*
Agricultural land owned: 4 for more than 10 acres; 3 for 5.1–10.0 acres; 2 for 2.6–5.0 acres; 1 for less than 2.6 acres, or if the household owns some land but does not know how much; 0 for no land
Irrigated land owned: 1 for any irrigated land; 0 for no land
Access to toilet facility: 4 for own flush toilet; 2 for shared flush toilet or own pit toilet; 1 for shared pit toilet or other types of toilet; 0 for no toilet facility
Cooking fuel used: 2 for liquid petroleum gas, electricity or bio-gas; 1 for kerosene, wood, crop residue, dung cakes, coal or charcoal; 0 for other types of cooking fuel, for example, dry leaves

Access to drinking water facility: 4 for own piped water, hand-pump or covered well; 3 for own open well; 2 for public or shared piped water, hand-pump or covered well; 1 for public or shared open well; 0 for other sources of drinking water, for example, surface water, tanker/truck or rainwater
Access to electricity: 3 for electricity; 0 for no electricity
Ownership of household assets: 4 for car or truck; 3 each for motor cycle or scooter, refrigerator, computer/laptop, telephone (landline or mobile), colour television; 2 each for bicycle, electric fan, radio or transistor, black and white television, sewing machine, water pump, animal-drawn cart; 1 for watch or clock; 0 for each of the above items that the household does not possess.

Index scores, so constructed, ranged from 0 to 54. Households were then ranked according to the index score. This ranked sample was divided into quintiles—i.e., five groups, each containing an equal number of households—with the first quintile representing households of the lowest wealth status and the fifth quintile representing households with the highest wealth status. In the Youth Study, the wealth quintiles were developed at the state level on the basis of the weighted sample for the whole state.

Findings are presented in Table 2.11. As far as ownership of household assets was concerned, the items most likely to be owned by all households were a watch or clock (55%) and a bicycle (45%). One-sixth owned a radio (17%). Other items owned by one-tenth or more of all households included an electric fan (14%) and a telephone (10%). Wide rural-urban differences were observed, with rural households far less likely than urban households to report ownership of most items. For example, while 71% of urban households owned an electric fan, just 8% of rural households did; and while 41% of urban households owned a telephone, just 7% of rural households did. Sizeable proportions of all households (35%) and those containing eligible youth (27%) did not own a single item; again, this proportion was much higher among rural households than urban (in rural areas, 38% and 29% of all households and those containing youth, respectively, did not own a single item; compared to 7% and 6%, respectively, in urban areas).

The distribution of households by wealth quintiles shows that two-thirds of urban households were in the wealthiest (fifth) quintile; in contrast, only 16% of rural households were in this quintile. Likewise, one-fifth of rural households were in the poorest (first) quintile of the index compared to only 3% of urban households. In both urban and rural areas the distribution of households by wealth quintiles was, by and large, similar across all households and those that contained a youth eligible for interview in the Youth Study.

2.10 Profile of surveyed youth: Background characteristics

A total of 8,136 youth were interviewed. Table 2.12 presents the socio-demographic characteristics of surveyed youth. Age profiles suggest that larger proportions of young men and women were concentrated in the 15–19 year age group than in the 20–24 year age group (60–62% compared to 38–40%). Moreover, the unmarried were clearly younger than the married. While 57% of married young women were aged 20–24, only 9% of unmarried women fell into these ages. Gender differences were also wide. Among married young women, over two-fifths were between 15 and 19 years of age and slightly fewer than three-fifths were aged 20–24 years; in contrast, few married young men were between the ages of 15 and 19 (8% of all respondents aged 15–29 and 18% of those aged 15–24). Among the unmarried, gender differences were narrower, but young women were still more likely to be concentrated in the 15–19-year age group than young men (91% and 78%, respectively). Similar age profiles were observed by rural-urban residence for both young men and women.

The distribution of youth by religion was fairly similar to that observed in the household population: 86% of youth were Hindu and 14% were Muslim. While no differences were evident by marital status among young men, a larger proportion of married women than unmarried women were Hindu (89% versus 80%). Rural-urban differences in the distribution of the population by religion were modest.

Table 2.11: Household assets and wealth status

Percentage of all surveyed households and households containing youth eligible for interview owning selected household assets and percent distribution of households by wealth quintile, according to residence, Bihar, 2007

Housing characteristics (%)	Combined		Urban		Rural	
	All households	Households with youth	All households	Households with youth	All households	Households with youth
Assets owned						
Watch/clock	54.9	63.0	87.9	90.3	51.8	60.1
Electric fan	13.6	15.8	71.2	71.7	8.2	9.7
Bicycle	45.0	53.2	56.7	63.5	43.9	52.1
Radio and/or transistor	17.0	20.4	29.1	30.2	15.9	19.3
Colour television	3.8	4.6	28.9	28.6	1.4	1.9
B/W television	7.6	10.0	27.0	30.1	5.8	7.9
Telephone (landline/ mobile)	10.2	13.0	40.7	41.6	7.3	9.9
Refrigerator	1.6	1.8	14.4	12.8	0.4	0.6
Motorcycle/scooter	4.7	6.2	17.7	16.3	3.5	5.1
Sewing machine	7.6	9.4	25.1	27.8	5.9	7.4
Animal-drawn cart	1.4	1.8	0.5	0.6	1.5	2.0
Water pump	3.9	4.9	5.8	5.5	3.7	4.8
Personal computer/ laptop	0.3	0.3	3.3	3.2	0.0	0.0
Car/truck	0.4	0.5	2.4	2.0	0.2	0.4
Tractor	1.0	1.5	0.6	0.7	1.0	1.6
Thresher	1.3	1.8	0.5	0.7	1.4	1.9
None of the above	35.0	27.1	7.4	5.5	37.6	29.4
Wealth quintile						
First	20.0	16.5	2.8	2.0	21.6	18.0
Second	20.0	17.6	6.9	6.0	21.2	18.9
Third	20.0	19.0	7.7	7.5	21.2	20.3
Fourth	20.0	22.5	14.6	15.0	20.5	23.3
Fifth	20.0	24.4	68.0	69.6	15.5	19.5
Number of households	**28,205**	**11,810**	**10,887**	**4,794**	**17,318**	**7,016**

Note: All Ns are unweighted.

Caste-wise distributions were generally similar among young men and women, with 14–20% falling into general castes, 20–21% into scheduled castes and 58–64% into other backward castes. Differences by marital status show that more unmarried than married youth belonged to general castes (24% versus 11% among young men and 23% versus 10% among young women), and conversely more married than unmarried youth belonged to scheduled castes (27% versus 17% among young men and 25% versus 15% among young women); differences are likely attributed to caste-wise differences in age at marriage. Rural-urban differences were also evident; urban youth were more likely than rural youth to belong to general castes (28% versus 19% among young men and 25% versus 13% among young women) and conversely less likely to belong to scheduled castes (10% versus 22% among young men and 13% versus 22% among young women).

Table 2.12: Background characteristics of surveyed youth

Percent distribution of surveyed youth by selected background characteristics, according to residence, Bihar, 2007

Background characteristics	Men (M)[4] 15–24		Women (W)[4] 15–24		Married men (MM)[4] 15–29		Married women (MW)[4] 15–24		Unmarried men (UM)[4] 15–24		Unmarried women (UW)[4] 15–24	
	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number
Combined												
Age (years)												
15–19	62.1	1,144	59.6	3,615	7.7	63	43.0	842	77.8	1,081	91.4	2,773
20–24	37.9	798	40.4	1,914	34.6	387	57.0	1,499	22.2	411	8.6	415
25–29	NA	NA	NA	NA	57.7	665	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Religion												
Hindu	86.0	1,649	85.6	4,553	87.9	963	88.6	2,004	85.9	1,261	80.3	2,549
Muslim	13.9	289	14.3	969	12.1	152	11.4	336	13.9	227	19.6	633
Christian	0.1	2	0.0	3	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.1	2	0.0	3
Other[1]	0.1	2	0.0	3	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.1	2	0.0	3
Caste												
SC	20.1	307	21.2	910	26.7	243	24.8	482	16.7	199	14.8	428
ST	1.9	24	0.1	8	3.2	23	0.1	3	1.1	13	0.1	5
OBC	58.0	1,160	64.3	3,489	58.9	685	65.6	1,540	58.2	885	62.2	1,949
General[2]	19.9	446	14.4	1,120	10.9	163	9.5	316	23.7	390	22.9	804
No caste/do not know	0.2	5	0.0	2	0.2	1	0.0	0	0.2	5	0.1	2
Educational level (years)												
None[3]	16.1	271	51.0	1,934	29.4	287	64.1	1,207	11.7	154	28.2	727
1–7	30.3	486	24.9	1,436	28.8	277	20.5	519	28.6	350	33.4	917
8–11	41.5	847	19.6	1,577	30.2	367	12.9	456	46.9	709	31.2	1,121
12 and above	12.2	338	4.5	582	11.7	184	2.6	159	12.8	279	7.2	423
Worked in last 12 months												
Yes	72.7	1,306	36.8	1,562	96.8	1,069	38.0	618	64.3	881	36.0	944
No	27.1	634	63.2	3,966	2.9	44	62.0	1,722	35.5	610	64.0	2,244
Wealth quintile												
First	9.1	107	18.1	570	14.2	102	22.2	317	7.4	63	11.4	253
Second	12.0	167	18.6	712	17.2	148	20.9	351	10.7	110	15.0	361
Third	19.4	261	19.0	809	20.1	169	20.2	377	18.6	189	17.5	432
Fourth	26.3	440	20.5	1,042	22.2	237	19.5	430	27.0	325	23.0	612
Fifth	33.2	967	23.8	2,396	26.3	459	17.2	866	36.3	805	33.2	1,530
Total	**100.0**	**1,942**	**100.0**	**5,529**	**100.0**	**1,115**	**100.0**	**2,341**	**100.0**	**1,492**	**100.0**	**3,188**
Urban												
Age (years)												
15–19	58.2	566	57.0	1,447	3.3	16	27.5	312	65.7	550	78.3	1,135
20–24	41.8	473	43.0	1,134	34.8	190	72.5	824	34.3	283	21.7	310
25–29	NA	NA	NA	NA	62.0	341	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Religion												
Hindu	82.1	862	81.0	2,092	84.9	463	83.1	939	81.6	684	79.6	1,153
Muslim	17.1	173	18.7	482	15.1	84	16.9	196	17.6	145	20.0	286
Christian	0.4	2	0.2	3	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.4	2	0.2	3
Other[1]	0.4	2	0.2	3	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.4	2	0.2	3
Caste												
SC	10.0	114	13.4	340	15.2	87	16.2	181	9.4	79	11.1	159
ST	0.7	7	0.3	7	1.1	6	0.0	2	0.8	5	0.4	5
OBC	61.3	634	61.0	1,586	64.1	349	65.5	742	60.4	500	58.1	844
General[2]	27.6	280	25.3	647	19.6	105	18.3	211	29.0	245	30.4	436
No caste/do not know	0.4	4	0.0	1	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.4	4	0.0	1

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Table 2.12: (Cont'd)

Background characteristics	Men (M)[4] 15–24		Women (W)[4] 15–24		Married men (MM)[4] 15–29		Married women (MW)[4] 15–24		Unmarried men (UM)[4] 15–24		Unmarried women (UW)[4] 15–24	
	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number
Urban												
Educational level (years)												
None[3]	10.4	122	22.3	591	20.7	116	35.9	414	8.6	76	12.1	177
1–7	17.9	196	21.5	563	19.6	109	23.9	272	17.1	146	19.8	291
8–11	46.6	473	36.4	933	37.0	199	28.2	315	48.2	398	42.7	618
12 and above	25.1	248	19.8	494	22.8	123	12.0	135	26.1	213	25.3	359
Worked in last 12 months												
Yes	58.8	638	15.1	388	94.6	518	12.6	140	53.7	448	17.0	248
No	41.2	401	84.9	2,192	5.4	29	87.4	995	46.3	385	83.0	1,197
Wealth quintile												
First	1.1	14	2.2	59	3.3	16	3.5	37	0.4	5	1.4	22
Second	4.3	49	5.7	148	7.6	47	7.7	88	3.7	30	4.0	60
Third	6.1	65	8.2	216	8.7	48	11.2	127	5.7	48	6.1	89
Fourth	16.8	187	14.1	369	19.6	110	16.8	193	15.6	133	12.1	176
Fifth	71.8	724	69.9	1,789	60.9	326	60.8	691	74.6	617	76.3	1,098
Total	**100.0**	**1,039**	**100.0**	**2,581**	**100.0**	**547**	**100.0**	**1,136**	**100.0**	**833**	**100.0**	**1,445**
Rural												
Age (years)												
15–19	62.7	578	60.0	2,168	8.2	47	44.0	530	80.2	531	93.8	1,638
20–24	37.3	325	40.0	780	34.6	197	56.0	675	19.8	128	6.2	105
25–29	NA	NA	NA	NA	57.2	324	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Religion												
Hindu	86.6	787	86.2	2,461	88.1	500	88.9	1,065	86.8	577	80.5	1,396
Muslim	13.4	116	13.8	487	11.9	68	11.1	140	13.2	82	19.5	347
Christian	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0
Other[1]	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0
Caste												
SC	21.8	193	22.2	570	27.8	156	25.4	301	18.1	120	15.5	269
ST	2.1	17	0.1	1	3.4	17	0.1	1	1.2	8	0.0	0
OBC	57.4	526	64.7	1,903	58.5	336	65.6	798	57.8	385	62.9	1,105
General[2]	18.6	166	13.0	473	10.2	58	8.9	105	22.7	145	21.5	368
No caste/do not know	0.1	1	0.0	1	0.2	1	0.0	0	0.2	1	0.0	1
Educational level (years)												
None[3]	17.0	149	54.7	1,343	30.1	171	65.9	793	12.3	78	31.1	550
1–7	32.3	290	25.3	873	29.6	168	20.3	247	30.9	204	35.9	626
8–11	40.6	374	17.4	644	29.5	168	11.9	141	46.7	311	29.2	503
12 and above	10.1	90	2.6	88	10.7	61	2.0	24	10.2	66	3.8	64
Worked in last 12 months												
Yes	75.0	668	39.6	1,174	97.0	551	39.7	478	66.4	433	39.5	696
No	24.7	233	60.4	1,774	2.6	15	60.3	727	33.4	225	60.5	1,047
Wealth quintile												
First	10.4	93	20.1	511	15.2	86	23.4	280	8.7	58	13.2	231
Second	13.2	118	20.2	564	18.0	101	21.8	263	12.2	80	17.0	301
Third	21.7	196	20.4	593	21.1	121	20.8	250	21.1	141	19.6	343
Fourth	27.9	253	21.4	673	22.5	127	19.7	237	29.3	192	25.0	436
Fifth	26.8	243	17.8	607	23.2	133	14.3	175	28.7	188	25.3	432
Total	**100.0**	**903**	**100.0**	**2,948**	**100.0**	**568**	**100.0**	**1,205**	**100.0**	**659**	**100.0**	**1,743**

Note: All Ns are unweighted. Column totals may not equal 100% due to missing cases or "don't know" responses. NA: Not applicable. OBC: Other backward caste. SC: Scheduled caste. ST: Scheduled tribe. [1]Includes Buddhist/Neo-Buddhist, Sikh, Jain, Jewish, Parsi/Zoroastrian and no specified religion. [2]Includes all those not belonging to SC, ST or OBC. [3]Includes non-literate and literate with no formal schooling. [4]These abbreviations have been used in subsequent tables in this report.

Educational distributions suggest that youth were better educated than the population at large. Even so, levels of educational attainment were low and gender differences were wide. In total, 16% of young men and 51% of young women had no formal education (compared to 40% and 65%, respectively, of the general population described in Table 2.6) and just 12% and 5% had 12 or more years of education (compared to 9% and 3% of the general population). As can be seen from the above, gender differences were wide, with young women far more likely to be concentrated among the uneducated or poorly educated than young men. It is notable, however, that even among young men, educational attainment levels were modest. Differences by marital status indicate that as many as 29% of married young men and 64% of married young women had no formal education, compared to 12% and 28% of unmarried young men and women, respectively. Notwithstanding these differences in percentages who had no formal education, percentages of youth who had attained 12 or more years of education were negligible (12% and 3% among married young men and women; 13% and 7%, respectively, among the unmarried). Urban youth were generally better educated than rural youth: for example, 10% of young men and 22% of young women in urban areas had no formal education compared to 17% and 55% of rural youth, respectively. Similarly, 25% and 20%, respectively, of urban young men and women completed 12 or more years of education compared to 10% and 3% of rural youth, respectively.

Gender differences were evident with regard to work status; young men were almost twice as likely as young women to have ever worked in paid or unpaid activities in the 12 months preceding the interview (73% versus 37%). Differences by marital status were evident among young men, but not among young women; 97% of married young men had worked in the year preceding the interview compared to 64% of unmarried young men. Also evident was that rural youth were more likely to be engaged in economic activities than were urban youth and that gender differences were somewhat narrow in rural areas than in urban areas: 75% of young men and 40% of young women in rural areas were engaged in economic activities compared to 59% and 15%, respectively, in urban areas.

Household economic status distributions, as measured by wealth quintiles, suggest that young men were somewhat less likely than young women to belong to households in the poorer quintiles. For example, 9% of young men compared to 18% of young women fell into households in the poorest (first) quintile. Conversely, young men were somewhat more likely than young women to belong to households in the wealthiest quintile. Likewise, the married were generally more likely to be concentrated in households in the poorer quintiles than were the unmarried. For example, 14% and 22% of married young men and women fell into households in the poorest (first) quintile, compared to 7% and 11%, respectively, of the unmarried; conversely, 26% and 17% of married young men and women, respectively fell into households in the wealthiest (fifth) quintile, compared to 36% and 33% of unmarried young men and women, respectively. Rural-urban differences were wide, with rural youth more likely than their urban counterparts to belong to households in the poorer quintiles; conversely, more urban than rural youth belonged to households in the wealthiest quintile.

2.11 Profile of surveyed youth: Parental characteristics

The Youth Study inquired about the socio-demographic characteristics of respondents' parents, including their survival status, education and occupation. Findings, presented in Table 2.13, suggest that in about four in five respondents, both parents were surviving. While no gender differences were evident among the unmarried, married young men tended to be somewhat less likely to report that both parents were alive than married young women (70% versus 79%, respectively), clearly a function of the fact that married young men in our sample were older than married young women. Rural-urban differences were generally narrow. For those with just one parent surviving, this parent was more likely to be the mother (9–10%) than the father (5–6%). Finally, 1–2% reported that neither parent was alive.

Table 2.13: Parental characteristics of surveyed youth

Percent distribution of surveyed youth by parental characteristics, according to residence, Bihar, 2007

Parental characteristics (%)	M 15–24	W 15–24	MM 15–29	MW 15–24	UM 15–24	UW 15–24
Combined						
Survival status						
Both parents dead	1.0	1.8	3.6	2.5	0.8	0.5
Only father alive	5.1	5.8	10.4	7.0	3.8	3.5
Only mother alive	9.7	9.4	16.1	11.2	8.6	6.0
Both parents alive	84.2	82.9	69.9	79.3	86.8	89.9
Educational attainment level						
Median years of schooling of father	6.0	4.0	NC	NC	7.0	7.0
Median years of schooling of mother	NC	NC	NC	NC	NC	NC
Current/last occupational status of father						
Cultivator	33.7	25.4	32.9	28.0	33.9	21.4
Agricultural labourer	12.6	20.2	21.6	22.9	9.6	16.3
Administrative/executive/managerial/clerical	7.8	6.7	5.3	4.5	9.6	10.0
Business	7.2	6.6	5.7	4.9	7.2	9.1
Skilled manual/machinery	17.1	19.2	13.3	17.9	18.3	21.2
Unskilled non-agricultural labourer	20.1	20.7	18.7	20.7	20.3	20.5
Other	1.1	0.4	1.5	0.3	0.8	0.6
Never worked	0.2	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.3	0.8
Current/last occupational status of mother						
Cultivator	10.5	17.0	10.3	18.8	9.7	14.5
Agricultural labourer	11.8	26.3	16.1	29.3	9.5	22.1
Administrative/executive/managerial/clerical	0.6	0.9	0.4	0.4	0.7	1.6
Business	0.5	0.9	0.6	0.8	0.5	1.1
Skilled manual/machinery	0.8	2.0	0.4	1.7	0.9	2.4
Unskilled non-agricultural labourer	3.2	3.7	5.5	4.1	2.7	2.7
Other	0.3	0.3	0.4	0.4	0.1	0.3
Housewife/never worked	72.3	48.8	66.4	44.4	76.0	55.3
Number of respondents	**1,942**	**5,529**	**1,115**	**2,341**	**1,492**	**3,188**
Urban						
Survival status						
Both parents dead	1.4	1.3	5.4	2.1	0.8	0.6
Only father alive	4.7	5.2	6.5	7.0	4.5	3.8
Only mother alive	12.5	9.7	17.4	12.0	11.9	7.9
Both parents alive	81.4	83.8	70.7	78.9	82.8	87.7
Educational attainment level						
Median years of schooling of father	9.0	10.0	7.0	8.0	9.0	10.0
Median years of schooling of mother	NC	NC	NC	NC	NC	5.0
Current/last occupational status of father						
Cultivator	13.2	11.2	12.0	17.6	13.5	6.5
Agricultural labourer	2.1	4.2	6.5	7.0	1.6	2.4
Administrative/executive/managerial/clerical	14.6	18.6	13.0	13.4	15.1	22.3

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Table 2.13: (Cont'd)

Parental characteristics (%)	M 15–24	W 15–24	MM 15–29	MW 15–24	UM 15–24	UW 15–24
Urban						
Business	15.0	15.9	13.0	13.4	15.9	17.8
Skilled manual/machinery	28.2	25.9	25.0	24.6	28.2	26.7
Unskilled non-agricultural labourer	24.3	22.6	28.3	22.5	23.3	22.7
Other	2.1	0.8	2.2	0.7	2.0	0.8
Never worked	0.4	0.8	0.0	0.7	0.4	0.8
Current/last occupational status of mother						
Cultivator	1.4	4.4	2.2	7.0	1.2	2.6
Agricultural labourer	1.1	4.4	2.2	7.0	0.8	2.4
Administrative/executive/managerial/clerical	1.4	3.3	1.1	2.1	1.6	4.3
Business	1.1	2.0	1.1	2.1	1.2	2.2
Skilled manual/machinery	1.4	4.1	1.1	3.5	1.6	4.5
Unskilled non-agricultural labourer	4.7	6.4	4.3	6.3	4.1	6.7
Other	0.4	0.2	1.1	0.0	0.0	0.2
Housewife/never worked	88.5	75.2	87.0	72.0	89.3	77.1
Number of respondents	**1,039**	**2,581**	**547**	**1,136**	**833**	**1,445**
Rural						
Survival status						
Both parents dead	0.9	1.9	3.4	2.5	0.8	0.4
Only father alive	5.2	5.9	10.7	7.0	3.6	3.5
Only mother alive	9.3	9.4	16.0	11.1	8.0	5.7
Both parents alive	84.6	82.8	69.9	79.3	87.6	90.4
Educational attainment level						
Median years of schooling of father	5.0	1.0	NC	NC	7.0	6.0
Median years of schooling of mother	NC	NC	NC	NC	NC	NC
Current/last occupational status of father						
Cultivator	37.2	27.2	34.8	28.7	37.9	24.1
Agricultural labourer	14.3	22.3	23.1	23.9	11.2	18.8
Administrative/executive/managerial/clerical	6.7	5.2	4.6	4.0	8.5	7.7
Business	5.9	5.3	5.0	4.3	5.6	7.5
Skilled manual/machinery	15.2	18.4	12.2	17.5	16.3	20.2
Unskilled non-agricultural labourer	19.4	20.4	17.8	20.6	19.6	20.1
Other	0.9	0.3	1.5	0.2	0.6	0.6
Never worked	0.2	0.6	0.7	0.5	0.3	0.7
Current/last occupational status of mother						
Cultivator	12.1	18.6	11.1	19.5	11.2	16.7
Agricultural labourer	13.5	29.1	17.3	30.8	11.2	25.7
Administrative/executive/managerial/clerical	0.5	0.6	0.4	0.3	0.5	1.1
Business	0.4	0.8	0.5	0.7	0.3	0.9
Skilled manual/machinery	0.6	1.7	0.3	1.5	0.7	2.0
Unskilled non-agricultural labourer	3.0	3.4	5.6	4.0	2.4	2.0
Other	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.4	0.2	0.2
Housewife/never worked	69.6	45.4	64.6	42.6	73.5	51.3
Number of respondents	**903**	**2,948**	**568**	**1,205**	**659**	**1,743**

Note: All Ns are unweighted. Column totals may not equal 100% due to missing cases or "don't know" responses. NC: Not calculated, as more than 50% had no formal education.

Parents' educational attainment was considerably lower than that of youth respondents. For example, the median number of years of education completed by fathers of young men and women was 6 and 4 years, respectively. Fathers of the unmarried were considerably better educated than fathers of the married; fathers of the unmarried typically had 7 years of schooling—in comparison, fathers of over half of married young men and women had never been to school. Differences in educational attainment of fathers by marital status of youth may be attributed to the fact that the better educated may be more likely than the poorly educated to delay the marriage of their children. Rural-urban differences were wide, with rural fathers having completed 1–5 years and urban fathers 9–10 years of schooling. As far as maternal education was concerned, over half of mothers of youth, irrespective of sex, marital status or rural-urban residence, had never been to school.

The Youth Study also inquired about the current or last main occupation of respondents' parents. Distributions of occupational status suggest that fathers of 25–34% of youth were working on their own farms, compared to mothers of 11–17% of youth. Fathers of far fewer youth were agricultural labourers: 13% and 20% of fathers of young men and women, respectively. A similar proportion—between 12% and 26%—of mothers of young men and women were agricultural labourers. About one-fifth (17–19%) of fathers and hardly any (1–2%) mothers were engaged in skilled manual occupations, and 20–21% of fathers and 3–4% of mothers were unskilled non-agricultural labourers. Fewer than 10% of fathers and less than 1% of mothers were engaged in administrative, executive, managerial or clerical occupations; similar proportions were running their own business. Finally, mothers of 72% and 49% of young men and women, respectively, were housewives; hardly any fathers (less than 1%) had never worked. Differences by marital status were evident; parents of married youth were more likely to have been engaged in agricultural activities than were parents of unmarried youth. Additionally, mothers of unmarried youth were more likely to have never worked than mothers of married youth. Rural-urban differences were also evident. While rural parents were largely cultivators and agricultural labourers, urban parents were more likely to be concentrated in skilled manual occupations, unskilled non-agricultural activities, administrative, managerial or clerical occupations, and business and in the case of mothers, in housework. That somewhat larger percentages of the fathers of married compared to unmarried youth in urban settings (particularly young women) were in agricultural occupations may be attributed to migration into urban areas by married youth.

Chapter 3

Education

Young people in India are spending more of their adolescent years acquiring an education than ever before. Educational attainment levels have increased, the percentage that has never been to school has declined and gender differences in educational attainment levels have diminished (Office of the Registrar General and Census Commissioner, 2001f). This is not to say, however, that schooling is universal or that gender differences are no longer a concern. Attainment of primary school education is still far from universal, especially among girls. Differences by caste, religion, region and poverty levels persist; and the quality of education varies widely for different sub-groups of youth. This chapter examines the schooling experiences of youth in terms of educational attainment, reasons for school non-attendance or discontinuation, quality of schools and colleges attended and schooling experiences.

3.1 Educational attainment

The Youth Study obtained information on whether the respondent had ever been to school and, if so, the number of years of schooling successfully completed. Current schooling status was also assessed, and a Life Event Calendar inquired about the schooling status of all respondents from the age of 12. Findings are presented in Table 3.1.

Findings highlight that schooling was far from universal among young people, particularly among young women, in Bihar: 16% of young men and 51% of young women had never been to school. Wide differences by marital status were evident: 12% of unmarried young men compared to 29% of married young men had no formal education. The corresponding difference among young women was much wider: 28% of unmarried young women compared to 64% of married young women had never been to school. As expected, a larger percentage of rural than urban youth had never attended school. Rural-urban differences were much wider among young women than men: 55% of rural young women compared to 22% of urban young women, and 17% of rural young men compared to 10% of urban young men had never been to school. Indeed, two-thirds of married young women and almost one-third of unmarried young women in rural settings had never been to school.

Educational attainment levels of young people also reconfirm differences by sex, marital status and rural-urban residence. Young men, on average, had 8 years of schooling while, as discussed earlier, over half of young women had never been to school. Among young men, the unmarried had 2 more years of schooling than the married (8 versus 6); in contrast among young women, while the unmarried had completed 6 years of schooling, the majority of the married had never been to school. Rural-urban differences suggest that urban young men typically had 1 more year of schooling than their rural counterparts (9 versus 8). Among young women, while those in urban areas had typically attained 8 years of education, over half of those in rural areas had never attended school. Similar differences were evident in the proportion of youth who had completed high school (Class 10). Young men were more than twice as likely as young women to have completed high school (30% versus 13%). Married youth were less likely to have completed high school than the unmarried

(26% and 33%, respectively, among young men; 9% and 19%, respectively, among young women). We note that disparities by marital status may be wider than what is reflected here because the unmarried were younger and more likely to be pursuing their education at the time of interview.

Table 3.1: Educational attainment and current educational status

Percent distribution of youth by years of schooling successfully completed, median years of schooling and percentage currently in school, according to residence, Bihar, 2007

Schooling status (%)	M 15–24	W 15–24	MM 15–29	MW 15–24	UM 15–24	UW 15–24
Combined						
Completed years of schooling						
None[1]	16.1	51.0	29.4	64.1	11.7	28.2
1–4	10.7	9.5	12.2	7.7	10.1	13.1
5–7	19.5	15.4	16.6	12.8	18.6	20.4
8–9	23.5	11.0	15.9	6.6	26.5	19.0
10–11	18.0	8.6	14.3	6.3	20.3	12.2
12 and above	12.2	4.5	11.7	2.6	12.8	7.2
Median years of schooling	8.0	NC	6.0	NC	8.0	6.0
Currently in school/college	41.7	18.9	4.9	4.7	54.0	44.5
Number of respondents	**1,942**	**5,529**	**1,115**	**2,341**	**1,492**	**3,188**
Urban						
Completed years of schooling						
None[1]	10.4	22.3	20.7	35.9	8.6	12.2
1–4	6.8	7.2	6.5	9.2	6.6	5.7
5–7	11.1	14.3	13.0	14.8	10.7	14.2
8–9	22.9	16.2	17.4	12.0	23.8	19.1
10–11	23.7	20.3	19.6	16.2	24.2	23.5
12 and above	25.1	19.8	22.8	12.0	26.2	25.4
Median years of schooling	9.0	8.0	9.0	5.0	10.0	9.0
Currently in school/college	51.3	38.3	5.4	7.7	57.8	60.5
Number of respondents	**1,039**	**2,581**	**547**	**1,136**	**833**	**1,445**
Rural						
Completed years of schooling						
None[1]	17.0	54.7	30.1	65.9	12.3	31.1
1–4	11.4	9.8	12.7	7.6	10.7	14.4
5–7	20.9	15.5	16.9	12.7	20.2	21.5
8–9	23.5	10.3	15.8	6.2	27.1	19.0
10–11	17.1	7.1	13.8	5.7	19.6	10.1
12 and above	10.1	2.6	10.7	2.0	10.2	3.8
Median years of schooling	8.0	NC	5.0	NC	8.0	5.0
Currently in school/college	40.1	16.4	5.0	4.5	53.2	41.5
Number of respondents	**903**	**2,948**	**568**	**1,205**	**659**	**1,743**

Note: All Ns are unweighted. Column totals may not equal 100% due to missing cases or "don't know" responses [1]Includes non-literate and literate with no formal schooling. NC: Median cannot be calculated as more than 50% had no formal education.

Rural youth were considerably less likely to have completed high school than urban youth (27% and 49%, respectively, among young men; 10% and 40% among young women, respectively). Rural-urban differences were widest among unmarried young women, with 49% of urban young women compared to 14% of rural young women having completed high school.

At the time of interview, 42% of young men compared to 19% of young women were in school or college. These gender differences were influenced by differences among unmarried youth. For example, 54% of young men compared to 45% of young women were still in school/college at the time of the interview. In contrast, hardly any married youth (5% each of young men and women, respectively) were still studying. Among the unmarried, patterns varied. Among unmarried young men, for example, rural-urban differences were narrow: 58% and 53% of those in urban and rural areas, respectively were studying at the time of interview. In contrast, rural-urban differences were pronounced among unmarried young women: 61% of urban young women compared to 42% of rural young women were studying at the time of interview.

3.2 Differentials in educational attainment

Differentials in educational levels of young men and women, measured with respect to completed years of schooling, are presented in Tables 3.2 and 3.3, respectively. Findings show a positive association between age and years of education completed among both young men and women, irrespective of marital status and rural-urban residence.

Table 3.2: Educational attainment of young men by selected background characteristics

Percent distribution of young men by educational level, according to selected background characteristics and residence, Bihar, 2007

Background characteristics (%)	M, 15–24				MM, 15–29				UM, 15–24			
	Completed years of schooling											
	None[1]	1–7	8–9	10+	None[1]	1–7	8–9	10+	None[1]	1–7	8–9	10+
Combined												
Age (years)												
15–19	13.3	31.0	29.1	26.6	29.1	36.0	15.1	19.8	12.1	30.6	30.3	27.0
20–24	20.5	29.1	14.2	36.1	28.0	34.7	15.0	22.3	10.6	21.5	13.3	54.5
25–29	NA	NA	NA	NA	30.2	24.3	16.6	28.9	NA	NA	NA	NA
Religion												
Hindu	14.6	29.2	24.1	32.1	27.0	28.2	16.7	28.1	10.8	27.2	27.4	34.6
Muslim	25.4	36.8	19.5	18.4	46.3	33.8	9.6	10.3	17.8	37.5	21.2	23.6
Caste												
SC	23.8	35.2	19.7	21.3	37.8	27.4	15.4	19.4	16.9	34.3	22.6	26.2
OBC	16.9	31.9	23.4	27.8	27.5	31.1	14.6	26.8	13.3	30.7	26.8	29.1
General[2]	4.9	21.0	25.6	48.6	12.4	19.0	23.1	45.5	4.5	19.8	26.8	48.9
Wealth quintile												
First	38.8	38.2	12.9	10.1	61.0	23.9	5.0	10.1	28.2	46.4	15.5	10.0
Second	29.4	42.6	17.0	11.1	48.4	34.4	11.5	5.7	21.9	45.0	18.8	14.4
Third	20.7	37.3	26.8	15.2	30.4	34.8	18.3	16.5	15.5	35.7	32.9	15.9
Fourth	14.5	33.4	25.9	26.3	22.5	34.5	19.3	23.7	12.4	30.0	28.3	29.3
Fifth	3.7	17.0	24.8	54.4	4.8	18.8	19.8	56.7	3.0	15.3	26.6	55.1
Total	**16.1**	**30.2**	**23.5**	**30.2**	**29.4**	**28.8**	**15.9**	**25.9**	**11.7**	**28.6**	**26.5**	**33.1**

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Table 3.2: (Cont'd)

Background characteristics (%)	M, 15–24				MM, 15–29				UM, 15–24			
	Completed years of schooling											
	None[1]	1–7	8–9	10+	None[1]	1–7	8–9	10+	None[1]	1–7	8–9	10+
Urban												
Age (years)												
15–19	9.2	19.0	28.2	43.6	*	*	*	*	8.8	18.8	28.8	43.8
20–24	12.7	16.9	15.3	55.1	21.9	21.9	18.8	37.5	8.3	14.3	14.3	63.1
25–29	NA	NA	NA	NA	20.3	16.9	16.9	45.8	NA	NA	NA	NA
Religion												
Hindu	8.2	16.5	23.8	51.5	17.7	19.0	16.5	46.8	6.5	15.0	25.0	53.5
Muslim	21.3	25.5	21.3	31.9	42.9	21.4	14.3	21.4	18.6	25.6	20.9	34.9
Caste												
SC	20.7	24.1	17.2	37.9	35.7	21.4	21.4	21.4	14.3	23.8	14.3	47.6
OBC	12.3	19.9	25.7	42.1	19.0	22.4	17.2	41.4	10.8	18.9	27.0	43.2
General[2]	3.8	10.3	19.2	66.7	11.8	11.8	11.8	64.7	2.8	9.9	19.7	67.6
Wealth quintile												
First	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Second	(50.0)	(33.3)	(16.7)	(0.0)	(57.1)	(28.6)	(14.3)	(0.0)	(50.0)	(37.5)	(12.5)	(0.0)
Third	25.0	37.5	31.3	6.3	(33.3)	(33.3)	(22.2)	(11.1)	(28.6)	(35.7)	(28.6)	(7.1)
Fourth	19.1	31.9	23.4	25.5	33.3	27.8	22.2	16.7	15.4	33.3	23.1	28.2
Fifth	4.5	11.9	22.9	60.7	8.8	14.0	15.8	61.4	3.8	11.5	24.0	60.7
Total	**10.4**	**18.0**	**23.0**	**48.6**	**20.7**	**19.6**	**17.4**	**42.4**	**8.6**	**17.2**	**23.8**	**50.4**
Rural												
Age (years)												
15–19	14.0	32.9	29.2	24.0	(28.9)	(37.3)	(14.5)	(19.3)	12.5	32.5	30.5	24.4
20–24	22.1	31.3	14.1	32.4	28.6	35.7	14.7	21.0	11.3	24.3	13.0	51.4
25–29	NA	NA	NA	NA	31.2	24.9	16.6	27.3	NA	NA	NA	NA
Religion												
Hindu	15.6	31.3	24.1	29.0	27.9	29.0	16.6	26.5	11.5	29.4	28.0	31.1
Muslim	26.1	38.9	19.5	15.5	46.3	35.0	8.9	9.8	17.7	40.2	21.3	20.7
Caste												
SC	24.3	36.0	19.9	19.9	37.9	27.7	15.1	19.3	17.2	35.2	23.3	24.2
OBC	17.9	33.9	22.9	25.3	28.4	31.9	14.4	25.3	13.9	33.1	26.8	26.2
General[2]	5.1	23.3	27.5	44.1	12.5	20.2	25.0	42.3	4.9	22.3	28.6	44.2
Wealth quintile												
First	38.5	38.5	12.6	10.3	60.6	23.9	5.2	10.3	27.5	46.8	15.6	10.1
Second	28.3	43.0	17.0	11.7	48.1	34.6	11.4	5.9	20.3	45.8	19.0	15.0
Third	20.6	37.4	26.6	15.4	30.6	34.7	18.1	16.7	14.9	35.9	33.2	16.0
Fourth	14.0	33.6	26.0	26.4	21.7	35.2	19.1	23.9	11.8	29.9	29.0	29.3
Fifth	3.3	19.3	25.7	51.7	4.2	19.3	21.0	55.5	2.5	17.3	27.9	52.2
Total	**17.0**	**32.3**	**23.5**	**27.2**	**30.1**	**29.6**	**15.8**	**24.5**	**12.3**	**30.9**	**27.1**	**29.8**

*Note: Row totals may not equal 100% due to missing cases or "don't know" responses. ( ) Based on 25–49 unweighted cases. *Percentage not shown, based on fewer than 25 unweighted cases. NA: Not applicable. OBC: Other backward caste. SC: Scheduled caste. ST: Scheduled tribe. [1]Includes non-literate and literate with no formal schooling. [2]Includes all those not belonging to SC, ST or OBC.*

Differences in educational attainment levels by religion, shown in Tables 3.2 and 3.3, indicate that Muslims tended to be more disadvantaged than Hindus, irrespective of sex, marital status and rural-urban residence. For example, 18% and 8% of Muslim young men and women, respectively, had completed at least 10 years of education, compared to 32% and 14% of Hindu young men and women, respectively. Caste differences suggest that those belonging to general castes were considerably more likely than others to have completed 10 or more years of schooling among both young men and women, irrespective of marital status and rural-urban residence; conversely, those belonging to scheduled castes were considerably less likely to have done so.

A positive association was consistently observed between the economic status of young people's households, measured in wealth quintiles, and young people's educational attainment levels. For example, among young men, just 10% of those from households in the poorest (first) quintile had completed 10 or more years of schooling, compared to 54% of those from households in the wealthiest (fifth) quintile. Among young women however, the pattern was quite different: differences in percentages of those who had completed 10 or more years of schooling were mild among those in the first to fourth quintiles (fewer than 10%) and were apparent for the wealthiest quintile (fifth), among whom 39% had completed 10 or more years of education. Patterns were similar for both the unmarried and the married and those residing in rural and urban areas.

Table 3.3: Educational attainment of young women by selected background characteristics

Percent distribution of young women by educational level, according to selected background characteristics and residence, Bihar, 2007

Background characteristics (%)	W, 15–24				MW, 15–24				UW, 15–24			
	Completed years of schooling											
	None[1]	1–7	8–9	10+	None[1]	1–7	8–9	10+	None[1]	1–7	8–9	10+
Combined												
Age (years)												
15–19	48.0	28.1	13.4	10.4	69.6	20.2	5.6	4.7	30.0	35.4	20.2	14.4
20–24	55.4	20.1	7.3	17.2	59.9	20.8	7.3	12.0	8.4	12.5	7.0	72.2
Religion												
Hindu	50.6	24.0	11.5	13.9	63.8	20.0	6.9	9.3	25.3	32.7	20.6	21.5
Muslim	53.5	30.3	8.1	8.2	66.0	25.0	3.7	5.2	40.2	36.7	12.7	10.4
Caste												
SC	68.5	21.0	5.1	5.4	75.9	16.5	3.4	4.1	46.7	35.1	9.9	8.2
OBC	51.5	25.7	11.2	11.6	63.7	21.1	6.8	8.3	29.0	35.0	19.5	16.5
General[2]	23.1	26.7	18.9	31.3	36.0	26.1	13.1	24.8	14.0	28.2	23.8	34.0
Wealth quintile												
First	75.8	18.4	3.4	2.4	81.3	13.7	2.3	2.7	54.8	35.8	7.4	1.9
Second	69.5	23.9	4.0	2.6	77.1	18.6	2.2	2.0	49.6	37.7	8.6	4.2
Third	56.2	29.3	9.0	5.4	66.2	23.3	6.3	4.2	34.3	42.7	15.1	7.9
Fourth	46.8	29.9	14.1	9.3	58.9	24.9	7.7	8.5	27.3	38.0	24.5	10.2
Fifth	17.5	22.6	21.0	38.9	29.4	23.4	16.4	30.8	6.7	22.7	26.1	44.5
Total	**51.0**	**24.9**	**11.0**	**13.1**	**64.1**	**20.5**	**6.6**	**8.8**	**28.2**	**33.4**	**19.0**	**19.4**

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Table 3.3 (Cont'd)

Background characteristics (%)	W, 15–24				MW, 15–24				UW, 15–24			
	Completed years of schooling											
	None[1]	1–7	8–9	10+	None[1]	1–7	8–9	10+	None[1]	1–7	8–9	10+
Urban												
Age (years)												
15–19	19.8	24.5	20.9	34.7	44.7	26.3	13.2	15.8	13.7	24.0	23.0	39.3
20–24	25.3	17.6	9.9	47.3	33.0	23.3	11.7	32.0	7.5	4.7	4.7	83.2
Religion												
Hindu	18.2	21.3	17.0	43.5	31.9	25.2	12.6	30.3	7.6	18.3	20.6	53.4
Muslim	40.3	23.5	11.8	24.4	58.3	16.7	8.3	16.7	30.6	26.5	13.3	29.6
Caste												
SC	37.6	29.4	12.9	20.0	54.5	27.3	9.1	9.1	20.0	32.7	16.4	30.9
OBC	22.9	23.9	17.2	36.0	34.4	25.8	11.8	28.0	13.2	22.6	21.3	42.9
General[2]	12.3	11.7	15.4	60.5	23.1	15.4	15.4	46.2	7.4	9.4	15.4	67.8
Wealth quintile												
First	66.7	26.7	6.7	0.0	(100.0)	(0.0)	(0.0)	(0.0)	*	*	*	*
Second	57.1	31.4	5.7	5.7	63.6	27.3	9.1	0.0	45.0	40.0	5.0	10.0
Third	53.8	30.8	9.6	5.8	68.8	25.0	6.3	0.0	37.9	37.9	13.8	10.3
Fourth	40.4	31.5	16.9	11.2	52.0	32.0	8.0	8.0	28.3	30.0	25.0	16.7
Fifth	10.6	17.8	18.0	53.7	19.8	22.1	15.1	43.0	5.3	15.1	19.6	59.9
Total	**22.3**	**21.5**	**16.2**	**40.0**	**35.9**	**23.9**	**12.0**	**28.2**	**12.2**	**19.9**	**19.1**	**48.9**
Rural												
Age (years)												
15–19	51.5	28.6	12.5	7.4	70.6	19.9	5.3	4.2	32.5	37.2	19.7	10.6
20–24	59.5	20.4	7.0	13.0	62.1	20.6	7.0	10.3	9.6	17.5	7.8	65.1
Religion												
Hindu	54.6	24.3	10.8	10.3	65.7	19.6	6.6	8.0	28.4	35.3	20.6	15.7
Muslim	55.6	31.5	7.4	5.5	67.4	25.6	2.9	4.1	42.0	38.6	12.5	6.8
Caste												
SC	71.0	20.3	4.4	4.2	76.7	16.1	3.2	3.9	50.4	35.5	8.9	5.3
OBC	55.0	25.9	10.4	8.7	65.6	20.9	6.4	7.1	31.7	37.1	19.2	12.1
General[2]	25.9	30.4	19.9	23.8	37.8	27.6	12.8	21.9	15.7	33.1	25.9	25.3
Wealth quintile												
First	75.8	18.4	3.4	2.4	81.2	13.8	2.3	2.7	55.2	35.8	7.3	1.7
Second	69.9	23.6	3.9	2.5	77.4	18.6	2.1	1.9	49.8	37.6	8.7	3.9
Third	56.2	29.3	9.1	5.4	66.2	23.1	6.3	4.4	34.1	43.0	15.2	7.8
Fourth	47.3	29.7	13.9	9.1	59.4	24.5	7.4	8.8	27.2	38.7	24.4	9.7
Fifth	21.0	25.1	22.6	31.4	32.1	23.5	16.8	27.6	7.5	26.9	29.7	36.0
Total	**54.7**	**25.3**	**10.3**	**9.6**	**65.9**	**20.3**	**6.2**	**7.6**	**31.1**	**35.9**	**19.0**	**14.0**

*Note: Row totals may not equal 100% due to missing cases or "don't know" responses. ( ) Based on 25–49 unweighted cases. *Percentage not shown, based on fewer than 25 unweighted cases. OBC: Other backward caste. SC: Scheduled caste. ST: Scheduled tribe. [1]Includes non-literate and literate with no formal schooling. [2]Includes all those not belonging to SC, ST or OBC.*

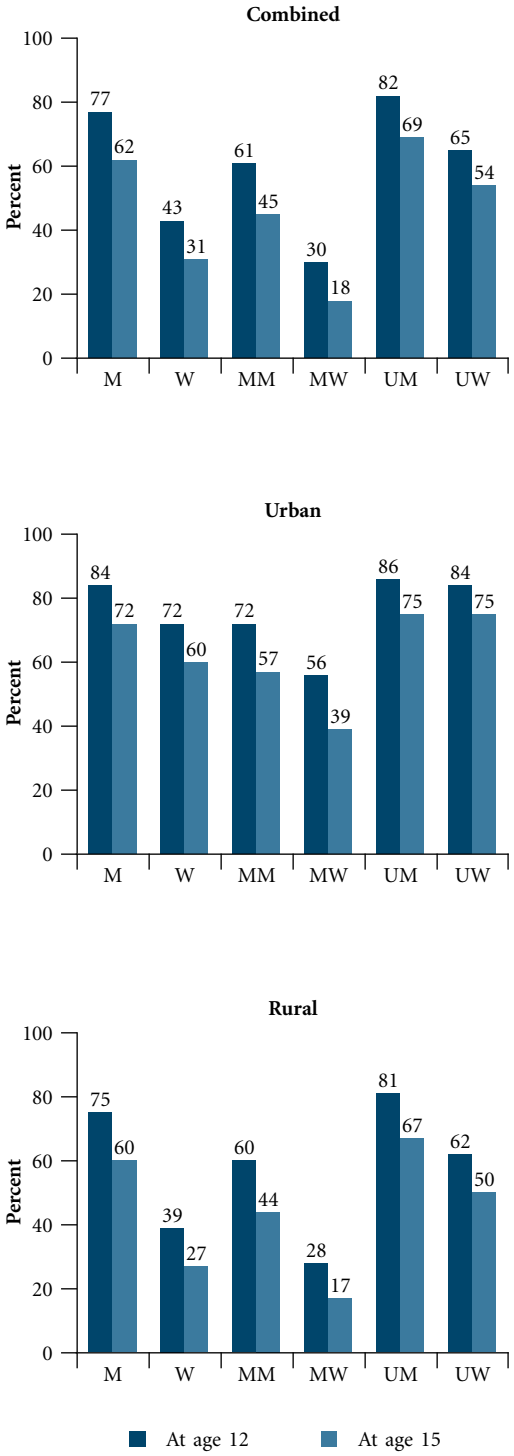
3.3 School attendance

Figure 3.1 presents schooling status at ages 12 and 15, representing, for many, periods before and after puberty was attained. Findings reconfirm the limited school attendance among young people in Bihar: 77% and 43% of young men and women, respectively, were in school at age 12 and far fewer—62% and 31%—at age 15. Married youth and rural youth were far less likely than their counterparts to be in school at ages 12 or 15.

Figures 3.2a-c show graphically the cumulative percentages of youth (all youth who had completed at least one year of schooling) who had completed each year of education from Class 2 to Class 17, using life table techniques. Findings show substantial declines in school completion as early as Class 3; only 95% and 93% of young men and women respectively, who were ever enrolled in school had completed Class 3. Completion rates fell below 90% in Class 5 and Class 4 among young men and women, respectively. Both married and unmarried young women reported similar patterns of early discontinuation: completion rates for both fell below 90% by Class 4. Marital status differences in school completion were evident among young men, among whom completion rates fell below 90% in Class 4 among the married and in Class 5 among the unmarried.

Declines in school attendance became progressively steeper, with differences between young men and women widening as the level of schooling increased. Among both young men and women, there were several notable declines in school completion levels. Among young women, declines of 5 points or more occurred between each class, with notable declines occurring between Classes 5 and 6 (83% to 73%), Classes 6 and 7 (73% to 67%), Classes 7 and 8 (67% to 59%), Classes 10 and 11 (46% to 29%), Classes 12 and 13 (28% to 19%) and finally, Classes 15 and 16 (19% to 3%). Among young men, in contrast, notable declines occurred between Classes 5 and 6 (88% to 82%), Classes 10 and 11 (60% to 47%), Classes 12 and 13 (45% to 30%), and Classes 15 and 16 (26% to 5%). These represent significant transitions: completion of a primary school, high school, a higher secondary school and a college degree, respectively. The additional decline between Classes 7 and 8 among young women may reflect withdrawal from school around the time of menarche.

Figure 3.1: Percentage of youth who were in school at ages 12 and 15, according to residence, Bihar, 2007



Findings also show significant differences between married and unmarried youth in school attendance levels. Among the married, declines of 5 points or more in completion rates occurred as early as between Classes 2 and 3 among both young men and women. School completion continued to decline steeply, by and large, thereafter, and gender differences were apparent. Among married young women, between Classes 4 and 10, annual declines of 7–17 points were observed. In contrast, among married young men, declines from one class to the next ranged from 4 to 14 points between Classes 4 and Class 10. Indeed, very few married youth continued their education after Class 11 (less than one-fifth of married young men and one in eight married young women). Among unmarried youth, declines were much more gradual. A decline of 5 points or more occurred between Classes 5 and 6 and a steep decline of 13–15 points occurred much later, that is, between Classes 10 and 11. Other notable declines occurred among unmarried youth between Classes 10 and 11 (13–15 points), Classes 12 and 13 (11–14 points) and Classes 15 and 16 (28–30 points).

Rural and urban patterns of school completion (Figures 3.2b and 3.2c) diverged considerably and findings suggest that rural youth, particularly rural young women, were markedly disadvantaged in terms of school retention even at the primary school level. For example, completion rates fell below 90% in Class 5 and 4 among young men and women, respectively, in rural areas. In contrast in urban areas, this occurred in Class 6 among both young men and women. Moreover, rural-urban differences became progressively wider from Class 6 onwards among young men (89% of urban young men and 79% of rural young men had completed Class 6) and from Class 5 onwards among young women (91% of urban young women and 81% of rural young women had completed Class 5). The corresponding percentages at Class 10 were 72% and 58%, respectively, among young men, and 68% and 41%, respectively, among young women.

Figure 3.2a: Cumulative percentage of youth who had completed each year of education (Classes 1 to 17), Bihar (combined), 2007

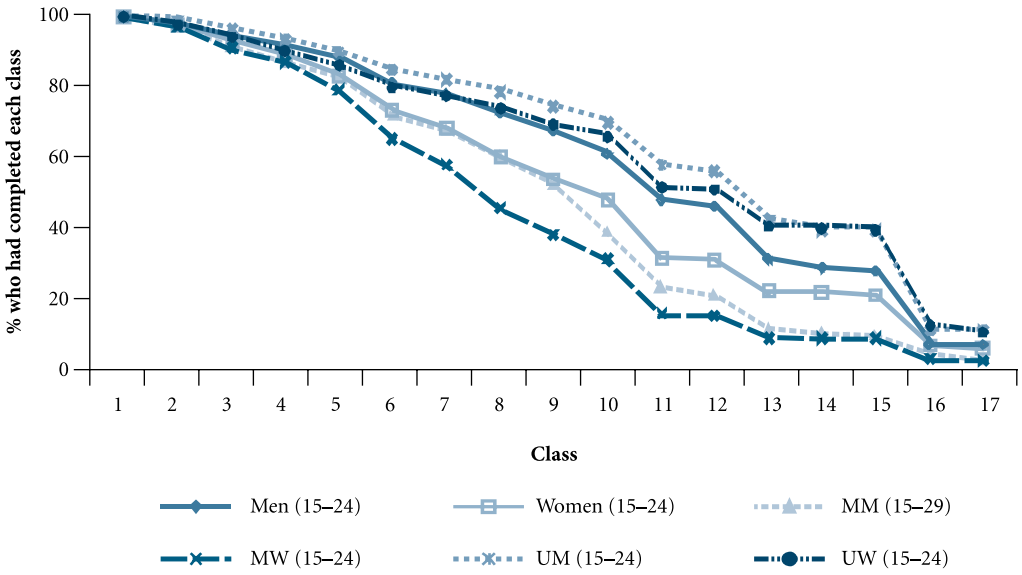


Figure 3.2b: Cumulative percentage of youth who had completed each year of education (Classes 1 to 17), Bihar (urban), 2007

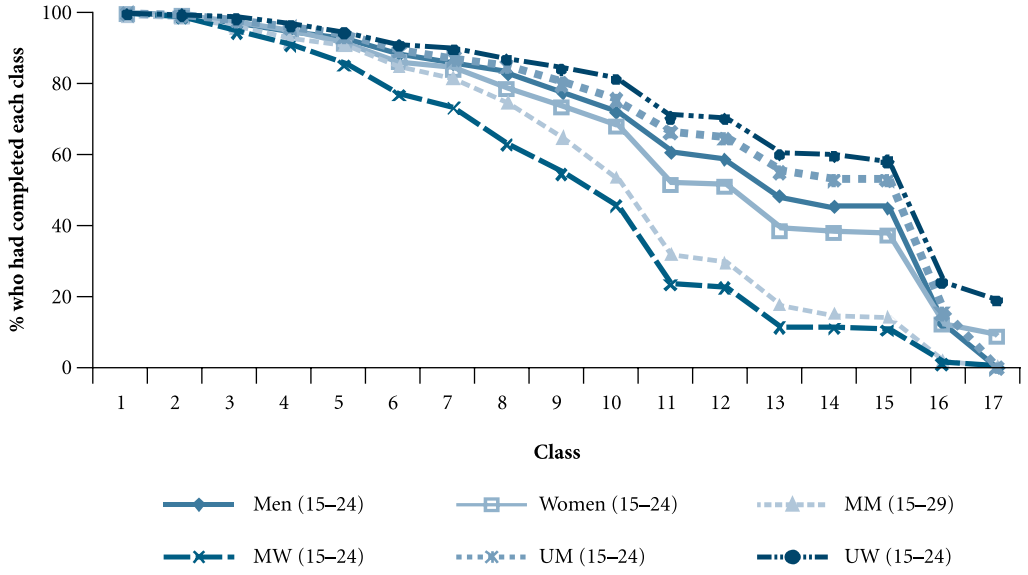
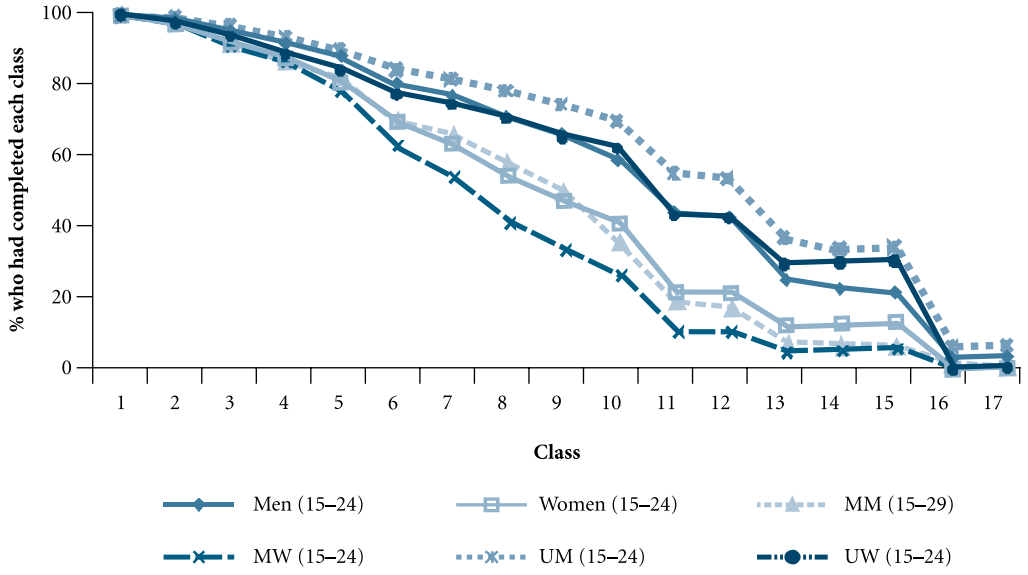


Figure 3.2c: Cumulative percentage of youth who had completed each year of education (Classes 1 to 17), Bihar (rural), 2007



3.4 Reasons for school non-attendance or discontinuation

The Youth Study inquired about reasons for never going to school from all those who so reported, and reasons for discontinuing school from all those who had not completed Class 12. Responses are provided in Table 3.4a for those who had never gone to school and have been grouped into five categories: economic reasons (work on the family farm or business, wage earning work, family poverty, i.e., the family could not afford to keep the respondent in school); housework-related reasons (required for care of siblings or housework); attitude or perception-related reasons (unsafe to send children to school, education not considered necessary, respondent's lack of interest); school-related reasons (school located too far away, appropriate transport not available, poor school quality and infrastructure, poor quality of teaching); and health-related reasons (health problems of respondent, illness or death of a family member).

Findings suggest that key reasons for never going to school were economic, cited by 58% of young men and 65% of young women. Notably, about one-third of young men and half of young women reported that their families could not afford to send them to school. More young women than men had never been enrolled in school because they were required to work on the family farm or business and conversely more young men than women had never been enrolled in school because they were required to work for wages. Housework-related factors were reported by larger percentages of young women than men (58% and 13%, respectively). Attitude or perception-related reasons for never attending school were also reported by large percentages, particularly young men (39% and 23% of young men and women, respectively). Of note is that lack of interest in studies was more likely to be reported by young men than women (31% and 12%, respectively). School-related reasons were cited by relatively few young men, and by a larger proportion of young women (7% of young men and 19% of young women). Finally, 11–19% of youth cited health-related reasons (mostly the sickness or death of a family member) for never attending school.

Notable differences by marital status were evident among young men. Married young men were more likely than their unmarried counterparts to report economic reasons, particularly wage earning work (39% versus 20%). While they were less likely to report attitude or perception-related reasons in general, they were more likely than their unmarried counterparts to indicate that they were never enrolled in school because education was not considered necessary (15% versus 6%), and less likely to report lack of interest (21% versus 38%). Differences by marital status were narrow among young women. Rural-urban differences suggest that young men in urban settings were more likely than those in rural settings to report economic reasons (64% and 57%, respectively) and health-related reasons (25% and 18%, respectively). Rural-urban differences were relatively modest among young women, but suggest that more urban than rural young women cited health-related reasons (17% versus 10%) and more rural than urban young women mentioned work on the family farm or business as reasons for never having attended school (24% versus 7%).

Table 3.4b reports findings for those who had discontinued their education before completing Class 12. In addition to the five sets of reasons included above, an additional category, early transition into adult roles, has been included, containing such reasons as marriage and employment. Reasons are presented separately for those who had dropped out of school before completing middle school (Class 7), high school (Class 10) and higher secondary education (Class 12), respectively. As evident also from Figures 3.3a and 3.3b, reasons varied considerably by sex and marital status of the respondent.

Table 3.4a: Reasons for never attending school

Percentage of youth who never attended school by reasons for never attending school, according to residence, Bihar, 2007

Reasons (%)	M 15–24	W 15–24	MM 15–29	MW 15–24	UM 15–24	UW 15–24
Combined						
Economic reasons						
Required for work on farm/family business	13.7	22.8	12.9	23.3	18.5	21.5
Required for outside work for payment in cash/kind	27.4	8.2	38.8	7.6	19.8	10.7
Family could not afford it (cost too much)	31.3	50.3	33.6	49.5	30.4	53.3
At least one economic reason	**57.9**	**65.2**	**65.0**	**64.5**	**58.0**	**68.1**
Housework-related reasons	**12.6**	**58.0**	**16.4**	**58.7**	**13.7**	**55.3**
Parental or youth attitudes and perceptions						
Not safe to send girls/boys to school	0.0	4.5	0.0	4.2	0.0	6.1
Education not considered necessary	9.8	7.7	14.7	7.6	5.6	8.1
Respondent not interested in studies	30.9	12.2	21.3	12.6	37.7	10.1
At least one attitude/perception-related reason	**38.6**	**23.3**	**33.9**	**23.4**	**42.2**	**22.9**
School-related reasons						
School too far away/transport not available	4.9	12.5	7.0	13.5	2.5	8.3
Poor quality of school facilities, teaching or education	2.5	6.9	2.1	6.5	1.9	9.2
At least one school-related reason	**7.4**	**18.9**	**8.4**	**19.6**	**3.7**	**16.0**
Health-related reasons	**19.0**	**10.6**	**22.0**	**10.8**	**19.3**	**9.3**
Number who never attended school	**250**	**1,867**	**258**	**1,168**	**144**	**699**
Urban						
Economic reasons						
Required for work on farm/family business	14.3	6.6	16.7	6.1	10.0	5.1
Required for outside work for payment in cash/kind	25.0	8.1	27.8	8.2	25.0	8.5
Family could not afford it (cost too much)	37.0	56.9	33.3	53.1	38.1	66.1
At least one economic reason	**64.3**	**64.0**	**66.7**	**61.2**	**61.9**	**69.5**
Housework-related reasons	**14.8**	**53.3**	**16.7**	**55.1**	**14.3**	**49.2**
Parental or youth attitudes and perceptions						
Not safe to send girls/boys to school	0.0	5.1	0.0	6.0	0.0	5.0
Education not considered necessary	10.7	8.0	16.7	8.2	10.0	8.5
Respondent not interested in studies	32.1	15.3	27.8	16.3	33.3	11.9
At least one attitude/perception-related reason	**40.7**	**26.3**	**38.9**	**26.5**	**42.9**	**23.7**
School-related reasons						
School too far away/transport not available	0.0	8.0	0.0	10.2	0.0	3.4
Poor quality of school facilities, teaching or education	3.6	5.8	0.0	6.0	0.0	6.7
At least one school-related reason	**3.6**	**13.1**	**0.0**	**14.3**	**0.0**	**10.2**
Health-related reasons	**25.0**	**16.9**	**22.2**	**18.4**	**25.0**	**15.3**
Number who never attended school	**116**	**570**	**109**	**396**	**72**	**174**

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Table 3.4a (Cont'd)

Reasons (%)	M 15–24	W 15–24	MM 15–29	MW 15–24	UM 15–24	UW 15–24
Rural						
Economic reasons						
Required for work on farm/family business	13.6	23.7	12.4	23.9	19.1	22.8
Required for outside work for payment in cash/kind	27.2	8.2	39.6	7.6	19.1	10.9
Family could not afford it (cost too much)	30.7	49.9	33.6	49.4	29.1	52.4
At least one economic reason	**57.2**	**65.3**	**64.9**	**64.7**	**57.4**	**68.0**
Housework-related reasons	**12.1**	**58.3**	**16.4**	**58.8**	**14.2**	**55.8**
Parental or youth attitudes and perceptions						
Not safe to send girls/boys to school	0.0	4.5	0.0	4.1	0.0	6.3
Education not considered necessary	9.7	7.7	14.9	7.6	5.0	8.1
Respondent not interested in studies	30.7	12.0	20.9	12.5	38.3	10.0
At least one attitude/perception-related reason	**38.5**	**23.2**	**33.6**	**23.3**	**42.6**	**22.9**
School-related reasons						
School too far away/transport not available	5.4	12.8	7.5	13.7	2.8	8.6
Poor quality of school facilities, teaching or education	2.3	7.0	1.9	6.5	1.4	9.4
At least one school-related reason	**7.8**	**19.2**	**9.0**	**19.8**	**4.3**	**16.5**
Health-related reasons	**18.3**	**10.3**	**22.0**	**10.6**	**18.4**	**8.9**
Number who never attended school	**134**	**1,297**	**149**	**772**	**72**	**525**

Note: All Ns are unweighted. Column totals may exceed 100% due to multiple responses.

Among those who had completed just 1–6 years of schooling, economic considerations dominated reasons for school discontinuation for young men, irrespective of marital status or rural-urban residence. Two-thirds of all young men so reported. Fewer young men cited attitude or perception-related reasons (34%) and housework-related reasons (20%). Among young women, four key reasons were cited: housework-related (40%), economic (37%), attitude or perception-related (27%) and school-related (26%). Reasons reported by married and unmarried youth, and by rural and urban youth were roughly similar. However, some notable differences were evident. Among young men, for example, the married were more likely than the unmarried to cite at least one economic reason (78% versus 66%), but less likely to cite school-related reasons (6% versus 14%). Among young women, in contrast, it was the unmarried who were more likely than the married to cite economic reasons (53% versus 28%); they were also more likely to cite housework-related reasons (45% versus 38%). Notably, marriage was reported as the reason for school discontinuation by 23% of married young women. Rural-urban differences indicate that urban young men were less likely than their rural counterparts to report economic reasons (59% versus 69%), housework-related reasons (12% versus 21%) and school-related reasons (3% versus 13%). Conversely, they were more likely to report attitude or perception-related reasons (50% versus 32%) and health-related reasons (24% versus 14%). Among young women, in contrast, those from urban settings were more likely than their rural counterparts to report economic reasons (45% versus 36%); they were also more likely to report health-related reasons (21% versus 11%), but less likely than young women from rural areas to attribute school discontinuation to school-related reasons (15% versus 27%).

Table 3.4b: Reasons for school discontinuation by level of education

Percentage of youth who had discontinued schooling before completing Class 12 by reasons, according to levels of discontinuation and residence, Bihar, 2007

Reasons (%)	M 15–24	W 15–24	MM 15–29	MW 15–24	UM 15–24	UW 15–24	M 15–24	W 15–24	MM 15–29	MW 15–24	UM 15–24	UW 15–24	M 15–24	W 15–24	MM 15–29	MW 15–24	UM 15–24	UW 15–24
	Combined						Urban						Rural					
Discontinued before completing Class 7																		
Economic reasons																		
Required for work on farm/family business	25.8	11.5	30.4	9.1	22.8	16.7	20.6	2.6	30.8	4.0	17.9	2.3	26.3	12.4	30.3	9.5	23.1	18.0
Required for outside work for payment in cash/kind	29.0	2.9	42.2	1.7	24.6	5.6	26.5	1.3	30.8	0.0	28.6	2.3	29.3	3.1	42.8	1.5	24.4	6.1
Family could not afford it (cost too much)	35.0	28.4	32.3	21.0	34.3	41.5	23.5	43.6	23.1	33.3	25.0	59.1	36.0	27.0	32.5	20.4	35.6	39.8
At least one economic reason	**68.2**	**36.9**	**77.7**	**27.9**	**66.1**	**53.2**	**58.8**	**44.9**	**69.2**	**33.3**	**57.1**	**61.4**	**69.2**	**36.0**	**78.2**	**27.5**	**67.3**	**52.4**
Housework-related reasons	**19.9**	**40.4**	**22.3**	**38.0**	**20.3**	**44.6**	**11.8**	**41.0**	**7.7**	**41.7**	**10.7**	**39.5**	**20.8**	**40.3**	**23.0**	**37.8**	**21.6**	**45.1**
Parental or youth attitudes and perceptions																		
Not safe to send girls/boys to school	0.5	7.0	0.8	7.2	0.0	6.7	0.0	6.4	0.0	8.3	0.0	6.8	0.6	7.1	0.8	7.1	0.0	6.9
Further education not considered necessary	9.3	9.7	8.9	11.6	10.6	6.3	14.7	6.4	14.3	8.3	14.3	4.7	8.7	10.0	8.6	11.8	10.1	6.3
Respondent not interested	27.3	14.9	23.0	14.6	26.6	15.1	38.2	17.9	30.8	25.0	39.3	9.1	26.2	14.6	22.6	14.2	24.5	15.6
At least one attitude/perception-related reason	**33.7**	**27.2**	**30.4**	**28.1**	**33.9**	**25.6**	**50.0**	**29.5**	**46.2**	**37.5**	**51.7**	**20.5**	**32.2**	**26.9**	**29.6**	**27.4**	**31.6**	**26.1**
School-related reasons																		
School too far away/transport not available	1.1	14.6	1.6	16.0	0.8	12.3	0.0	6.4	0.0	8.3	0.0	4.5	1.2	15.3	1.6	16.5	1.0	13.0
Poor quality of school facilities, teaching or education/no female teacher	8.7	13.0	2.3	11.6	12.2	16.1	2.9	7.7	0.0	8.3	3.6	6.8	9.3	13.5	2.1	11.8	13.4	17.0
Failure	2.5	0.7	2.7	0.6	1.7	1.0	0.0	1.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	2.3	2.7	0.6	2.9	0.6	1.9	0.9
At least one school-related reason	**11.8**	**26.3**	**5.9**	**26.0**	**14.4**	**27.4**	**2.9**	**15.4**	**0.0**	**16.7**	**3.6**	**11.6**	**12.7**	**27.3**	**6.2**	**26.6**	**15.9**	**28.7**
Transition into adult roles																		
Got married/engaged	0.0	14.6	0.0	22.6	0.0	0.0	0.0	9.0	0.0	16.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	15.1	0.0	23.0	0.0	0.0
Got job	0.5	0.1	0.8	0.0	0.0	0.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.6	0.1	0.8	0.0	0.0	0.4
Completed education	0.0	0.3	0.0	0.6	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.4	0.0	0.6	0.0	0.0
At least one reason related to transition into adult roles	**0.5**	**14.7**	**0.8**	**22.6**	**0.0**	**0.4**	**0.0**	**9.0**	**0.0**	**16.7**	**0.0**	**0.0**	**0.6**	**15.3**	**0.8**	**23.0**	**0.0**	**0.4**
Health-related reasons	**14.8**	**12.1**	**10.9**	**9.9**	**16.1**	**15.9**	**23.5**	**20.5**	**23.1**	**16.7**	**21.4**	**22.7**	**13.9**	**11.4**	**9.9**	**9.4**	**15.4**	**15.2**
Number who discontinued before completing Class 7	**305**	**808**	**212**	**380**	**206**	**428**	**131**	**322**	**78**	**193**	**96**	**129**	**174**	**486**	**134**	**187**	**110**	**299**
Discontinued after completing Class 7 and before completing Class 10																		
Economic reasons																		
Required for work on farm/family business	28.8	2.4	32.2	2.3	26.0	3.4	18.8	1.4	15.0	0.0	20.8	3.3	30.3	2.6	33.8	2.6	27.9	3.4
Required for outside work for payment in cash/kind	34.1	1.6	33.8	1.8	29.9	0.0	25.0	1.4	35.0	0.0	20.8	0.0	35.3	1.6	33.6	2.1	31.7	0.0
Family could not afford it (cost too much)	30.5	28.4	30.4	22.7	29.9	45.8	25.0	29.0	25.0	20.8	25.0	46.7	31.3	28.2	31.0	23.1	31.7	46.3
At least one economic reason	**73.7**	**30.5**	**77.9**	**25.0**	**66.9**	**49.2**	**56.3**	**30.4**	**65.0**	**24.0**	**52.2**	**46.7**	**76.1**	**30.5**	**79.5**	**25.1**	**70.2**	**49.3**
Housework-related reasons	**18.1**	**27.1**	**21.2**	**27.7**	**15.7**	**24.9**	**12.9**	**28.6**	**15.0**	**29.2**	**8.7**	**23.3**	**18.9**	**26.8**	**21.4**	**27.2**	**17.3**	**25.2**
Parental or youth attitudes and perceptions																		
Not safe to send girls/boys to school	0.9	9.8	0.0	9.5	1.6	10.2	0.0	7.2	0.0	8.0	0.0	6.7	1.0	10.2	0.0	9.7	1.9	10.9
Further education not considered necessary	9.9	5.6	9.5	5.9	7.9	4.5	15.6	8.7	14.3	8.0	17.4	10.0	9.0	5.0	9.0	5.6	5.8	3.4
Respondent not interested	24.1	8.4	14.8	8.6	33.1	7.3	28.1	11.6	25.0	12.0	30.4	10.0	23.9	7.9	13.8	8.2	34.6	6.8
At least one attitude/perception-related reason	**33.9**	**22.5**	**23.4**	**22.7**	**40.2**	**21.5**	**40.6**	**24.6**	**35.0**	**24.0**	**43.5**	**23.3**	**32.8**	**22.3**	**21.9**	**22.6**	**40.4**	**21.1**

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Table 3.4b: (Cont'd)

Reasons (%)	M 15–24	W 15–24	MM 15–29	MW 15–24	UM 15–24	UW 15–24	M 15–24	W 15–24	MM 15–29	MW 15–24	UM 15–24	UW 15–24	M 15–24	W 15–24	MM 15–29	MW 15–24	UM 15–24	UW 15–24
	Combined						Urban						Rural					
Discontinued after completing Class 7 and before completing Class 10																		
School-related reasons																		
School too far away/transport not available	1.7	27.6	2.6	27.9	3.1	28.8	0.0	11.6	0.0	12.0	0.0	6.7	2.0	30.7	2.4	29.7	3.9	33.3
Poor quality of school facilities, teaching or education/no female teacher	3.9	9.8	1.3	8.2	5.5	14.7	6.3	4.3	5.0	4.2	4.3	3.2	3.5	10.8	0.9	8.7	5.8	17.1
Failure	7.7	6.2	13.9	5.0	8.7	10.2.	12.5	10.1	10.0	8.0	13.0	16.1	7.0	5.5	14.3	4.6	7.7	8.8
At least one school-related reason	**12.4**	**38.9**	**17.4**	**37.3**	**15.7**	**46.3**	**16.1**	**24.6**	**15.0**	**24.0**	**17.4**	**25.8**	**11.9**	**41.5**	**17.6**	**39.0**	**15.4**	**51.0**
Transition into adult roles																		
Got married/engaged	2.2	31.0	6.1	40.9	0.0	0.0	0.0	27.5	0.0	40.0	0.0	0.0	2.5	31.6	6.6	40.5	0.0	0.0
Got job	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Completed education	0.0	0.7	0.0	0.9	0.0	1.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.8	0.0	1.0	0.0	1.4
At least one reason related to transition into adult roles	**2.6**	**31.8**	**6.1**	**41.4**	**0.0**	**1.1**	**0.0**	**27.5**	**0.0**	**40.0**	**0.0**	**0.0**	**2.5**	**32.5**	**6.6**	**41.5**	**0.0**	**1.4**
Health-related reasons	**8.6**	**13.4**	**13.4**	**12.7**	**6.3**	**14.7**	**9.7**	**20.3**	**15.0**	**16.0**	**12.5**	**30.0**	**8.5**	**12.1**	**13.3**	**12.2**	**4.8**	**11.6**
Number who discontinued after completing Class 7 and before completing Class 10	**234**	**486**	**238**	**305**	**133**	**181**	**128**	**288**	**121**	**199**	**79**	**89**	**106**	**198**	**117**	**106**	**54**	**92**
Discontinued after completing Class 10 and before completing Class 12																		
Economic reasons																		
Required for work on farm/family business	28.1	0.8	39.9	0.0	22.1	2.3	18.2	1.7	29.4	0.0	18.8	3.3	30.2	0.5	41.3	(0.0)	(22.9)	2.0
Required for outside work for payment in cash/kind	25.8	0.8	29.5	0.0	31.4	3.1	21.7	1.7	27.8	0.0	20.0	3.3	27.4	1.0	29.2	(0.0)	(34.3)	3.1
Family could not afford it (cost too much)	31.3	34.9	23.9	26.6	29.4	52.3	27.3	40.7	27.8	26.3	31.3	63.3	31.4	33.2	24.0	(26.7)	(29.6)	49.0
At least one economic reason	**72.7**	**35.7**	**75.4**	**26.6**	**72.1**	**53.9**	**59.1**	**42.4**	**64.7**	**26.3**	**56.3**	**65.5**	**76.4**	**33.7**	**76.9**	**(26.7)**	**(75.7)**	**51.0**
Housework-related reasons	**22.7**	**25.4**	**20.1**	**30.0**	**25.6**	**15.6**	**13.0**	**23.7**	**11.1**	**26.3**	**12.5**	**16.7**	**25.5**	**25.9**	**21.5**	**(30.8)**	**(28.6)**	**14.3**
Parental or youth attitudes and perceptions																		
Not safe to send girls/boys to school	1.6	3.6	0.0	0.9	2.3	9.4	0.0	5.1	0.0	5.0	0.0	10.0	1.9	3.1	0.0	(0.0)	(2.8)	10.1
Further education not considered necessary	10.2	9.5	13.0	8.3	10.5	10.9	13.6	11.9	11.1	10.5	13.3	10.0	10.4	8.8	13.3	(7.8)	(10.0)	11.2
Respondent not interested	20.3	7.1	18.0	6.4	21.2	7.8	31.8	8.5	27.8	5.3	31.3	10.0	17.9	6.2	16.5	(6.6)	(19.7)	7.1
At least one attitude/perception-related reason	**32.0**	**18.2**	**29.5**	**13.6**	**34.1**	**26.6**	**40.9**	**23.7**	**35.3**	**21.1**	**43.8**	**30.0**	**29.5**	**16.5**	**28.1**	**(12.2)**	**(32.4)**	**25.5**
School-related reasons																		
School too far away/transport not available	0.0	20.9	0.0	19.3	0.0	25.8	0.0	11.9	0.0	15.0	0.0	6.7	0.0	23.7	0.0	(20.0)	(0.0)	31.6
Poor quality of school facilities, teaching or education/no female teacher	0.0	6.0	0.0	4.5	0.0	9.4	0.0	6.8	0.0	5.3	0.0	10.0	0.0	5.7	0.0	(4.4)	(0.0)	9.2
Failure	2.3	0.4	7.2	0.0	1.2	1.6	9.1	0.0	5.9	0.0	6.7	0.0	1.9	0.5	7.4	(0.0)	(0.0)	2.0
At least one school-related reason	**3.1**	**24.5**	**7.9**	**22.0**	**1.2**	**31.3**	**9.1**	**16.9**	**11.1**	**20.0**	**6.7**	**13.3**	**1.9**	**26.8**	**7.4**	**(22.2)**	**(0.0)**	**36.7**
Transition into adult roles																		
Got married/engaged	0.0	31.6	2.9	45.5	0.0	0.8	0.0	28.8	0.0	47.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	32.1	2.5	(45.6)	(0.0)	1.0
Got job	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0.	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	(0.0)	(0.0)	0.0
Completed education	2.3	4.4	0.0	4.6	3.5	3.9	0.0	1.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	2.8	5.2	0.0	(5.6)	(4.3)	5.1
At least one reason related to transition into adult roles	**3.1**	**36.0**	**2.9**	**50.5**	**3.5**	**4.7**	**0.0**	**30.5**	**5.6**	**47.4**	**0.0**	**0.0**	**2.8**	**37.6**	**2.5**	**(51.1)**	**(4.3)**	**6.1**
Health-related reasons	**14.1**	**9.9**	**14.5**	**9.1**	**11.6**	**11.7**	**13.6**	**13.6**	**11.8**	**10.5**	**13.3**	**13.3**	**14.2**	**9.3**	**14.9**	**(7.8)**	**(11.3)**	**11.2**
Number who discontinued after completing Class 10 and before completing Class 12	**146**	**353**	**171**	**201**	**89**	**152**	**88**	**242**	**102**	**153**	**51**	**89**	**58**	**111**	**69**	**48**	**38**	**63**

Note: All Ns are unweighted. Column totals may exceed 100% due to multiple responses. ( ) Based on 25–49 unweighted cases.

Figure 3.3a: Percentage of married youth who had discontinued schooling by class when discontinued and reasons for discontinuation, Bihar 2007

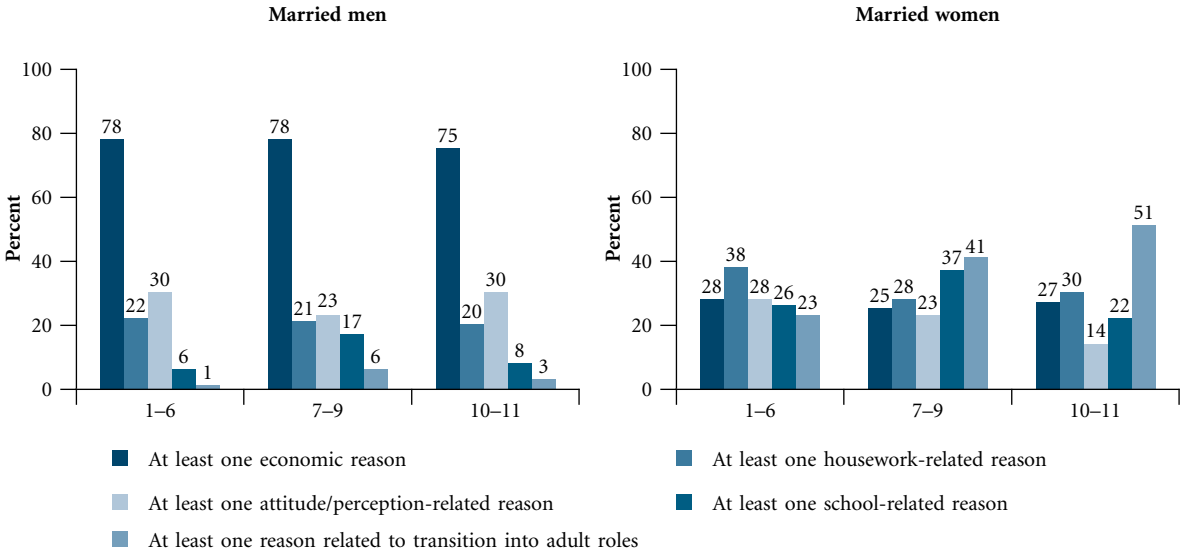
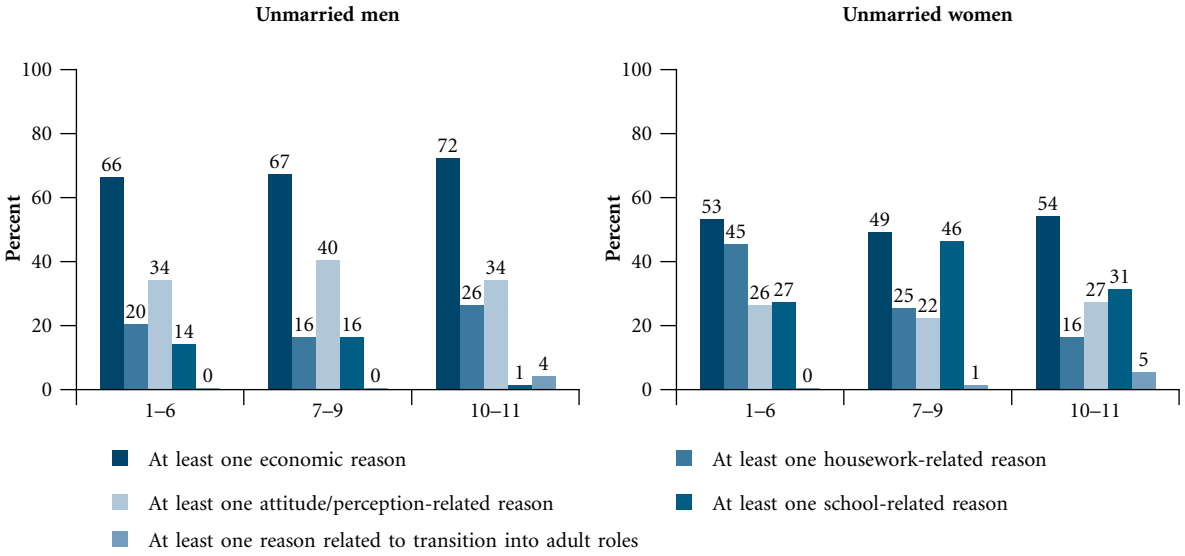


Figure 3.3b: Percentage of unmarried youth who had discontinued schooling by class when discontinued and reasons for discontinuation, Bihar, 2007



Gender differences in reasons for school discontinuation were more pronounced among those who had completed Classes 7–9. The leading reason for young men continued to be economic, reported by three-quarters. Attitude or perception-related reasons were cited by one-third and housework-related reasons by about one-fifth. Differences by marital status indicate that the married were more likely to report economic reasons and health-related reasons and less likely to report attitude or perception-related reasons compared to the unmarried. Rural-urban differences show that more urban than rural young men reported attitude or perception-related reasons, and more rural than urban young men reported economic reasons. Among young

women in contrast, school-related factors (39%), transition into adult roles (32%) and economic reasons (31%) were most often reported as reasons for discontinuation; housework-related and attitude or perception-related factors were reported by 27% and 23%, respectively. Differences by marital status indicate that more unmarried than married women reported economic and school-related reasons. However, transitions into adult roles were far more likely to be reported as a reason for school discontinuation by married women: 41% of married young women cited marriage or engagement as a reason for school discontinuation. Additionally in urban areas, more unmarried than married young women reported health-related reasons. Rural-urban differences were largely muted among young women; however, more rural than urban young women reported school-related reasons and more urban than rural young women reported health-related reasons.

Among those who had discontinued their education after completing Classes 10 or 11, gender differences continued to be wide. Among young men, leading reasons again were economic (73%), attitude or perception-related (32%) and housework related reasons (23%) Differences by marital status were negligible, but urban young men were more likely than rural young men to report attitude or perception-related and school-related reasons and less likely to cite economic and housework-related reasons. The leading reasons for school discontinuation among young women, in contrast, were economic and transition to adult roles—reasons reported by 36% each. Indeed, 32% of all young women and 46% of married young women reported discontinuing their education in order to marry. One-quarter each cited housework-related and school-related reasons. About one-fifth reported attitude or perception-related reasons. Differences by marital status suggest that the unmarried were more likely than the married to report economic, attitude or perception-related and school-related reasons for discontinuation. Conversely, they were less likely to report housework-related reasons and transition to adult roles. Rural-urban differences were evident. While urban young women were more likely than rural young women to cite economic and attitude or perception-related factors, rural young women were more likely to cite school-related reasons and transition to adult roles as reasons for school discontinuation.

3.5 School/college type, quality and experiences

All respondents were asked about the kind of school or college they had last attended or were attending at the time of interview and the facilities available in that school or college. They were also asked about their experiences: whether they attended classes regularly, their attitudes towards education and their performance in that school or college. Tables 3.5 and 3.6 present findings on type and quality of educational institutions most recently attended, and schooling experiences, respectively. Findings are presented separately for those who were still in school or college at the time of interview and for those who had discontinued their education before completing Class 12, in order to explore the extent to which school/college quality and experiences differed between these two groups. As school quality and experiences are unlikely to be different for the married and unmarried, Tables 3.5 and 3.6 present information by sex and rural-urban residence of respondents only. In addition, because experiences may vary according to level of education attained, findings are presented separately for primary or middle school, high school or higher secondary or college.

3.5.1 School/college type and quality

Table 3.5 shows a significant gender divide in terms of type of educational facility that youth attended, irrespective of rural-urban residence or current schooling status. The majority of young men reported attending co-educational facilities at all levels of education; 85–97% of young men who were currently attending a school or college reported as such. In contrast, young women were less likely to attend a co-educational facility at higher levels of schooling; for example among those who were currently attending a school or a college, the percentage attending a co-educational facility dropped from 90% at primary or middle school level to 78% at high school level to 63% at higher secondary and higher levels.

Table 3.5: Educational facilities availed

Percentage of youth who had ever attended school by type and characteristics of educational facility currently or last attended, according to current schooling status and residence, Bihar, 2007

Facility characteristics (%)	M 15–24	W 15–24	M 15–24	W 15–24	M 15–24	W 15–24	M 15–24	W 15–24	M 15–24	W 15–24	M 15–24	W 15–24	M 15–24	W 15–24	M 15–24	W 15–24	M 15–24	W 15–24
	Combined						Urban						Rural					
	Primary/ middle school		High school		Higher secondary and above		Primary/ middle School		High school		Higher secondary and above		Primary/ middle school		High school		Higher secondary and above	
A. Currently continuing education																		
Type of facility																		
Co-educational	97.2	89.6	85.2	78.0	93.1	63.4	*	66.7	52.3	41.9	90.4	47.0	(97.0)	91.8	89.5	84.6	94.0	74.5
Private[1]	14.1	10.9	9.9	13.8	24.0	21.6	*	11.1	20.5	21.3	23.4	19.9	(13.6)	10.9	8.5	12.4	24.3	22.8
Fully government aided	85.9	88.6	89.6	86.0	73.6	77.0	*	88.9	77.3	77.3	74.5	78.1	(86.4)	88.5	90.9	87.6	73.1	75.8
Partially government aided	0.0	0.0	0.5	0.2	2.5	1.1	*	0.0	2.3	1.3	2.1	1.3	(0.0)	0.0	0.6	0.0	2.6	1.4
Available amenities																		
Drinking water	95.8	90.5	97.9	97.3	98.6	93.4	*	88.9	100.0	97.3	97.9	94.0	(95.5)	90.7	97.7	97.5	98.9	92.6
Toilet facility	69.0	72.6	66.8	81.8	88.4	88.0	*	72.2	79.5	93.2	94.7	90.8	(68.2)	72.7	64.9	79.9	86.2	85.2
Playground	83.1	79.1	83.4	88.1	84.0	85.8	*	77.8	88.6	87.7	81.9	84.1	(84.8)	79.1	82.7	88.6	84.8	86.6
Library	20.8	37.3	30.1	49.6	62.4	74.3	*	42.1	40.9	51.4	86.2	80.9	(19.7)	36.4	28.7	49.4	54.3	69.0
All of the above	11.3	31.8	21.0	42.6	53.2	67.2	*	31.6	31.8	46.7	71.3	72.8	(10.6)	31.9	19.6	41.9	46.8	63.0
Number currently in school/college	**56**	**268**	**343**	**694**	**470**	**769**	**19**	**75**	**153**	**294**	**325**	**587**	**37**	**193**	**190**	**400**	**145**	**182**
B. Discontinued education before completing Class 12																		
Type of facility																		
Co-educational	95.3	90.0	86.5	74.2	*	*	90.2	79.6	65.9	49.5	*	*	96.0	91.1	90.6	80.6	*	*
Private[1]	11.0	13.7	9.8	14.9	*	*	29.3	20.4	9.3	17.8	*	*	9.1	13.0	9.9	14.4	*	*
Fully government aided	89.0	85.9	89.5	85.1	*	*	70.7	78.6	90.7	82.2	*	*	90.9	86.7	89.2	85.6	*	*
Partially government aided	0.0	0.1	0.8	0.0	*	*	0.0	1.0	0.0	0.0	*	*	0.0	0.0	0.9	0.0	*	*
Available amenities																		
Drinking water	86.6	85.9	96.6	92.6	*	*	81.0	86.3	93.0	97.0	*	*	87.2	85.9	97.3	91.4	*	*
Toilet facility	36.2	48.6	58.4	79.9	*	*	48.8	65.0	65.1	90.1	*	*	35.0	46.8	57.0	77.3	*	*
Playground	60.6	73.3	80.1	88.4	*	*	61.9	77.5	77.3	91.1	*	*	60.3	72.8	80.7	87.7	*	*
Library	5.8	24.5	19.9	48.0	*	*	11.9	23.3	23.3	51.5	*	*	5.2	24.7	19.3	47.3	*	*
All of the above	3.8	20.1	16.9	43.3	*	*	7.1	20.2	18.2	48.0	*	*	3.4	20.1	16.1	42.2	*	*
Number who discontinued education before completing Class 12	**376**	**1,001**	**294**	**636**	**15**	**10**	**163**	**427**	**174**	**418**	**10**	**7**	**213**	**574**	**120**	**218**	**5**	**3**

*Note: All Ns are unweighted. ( ) Based on 25–49 unweighted cases. *Percentage not shown, based on fewer than 25 unweighted cases. [1]While private, fully government aided and partially government aided were mutually exclusive options for school type, their combined total may not equal 100% due to missing cases or "don't know" responses.*

Rural-urban differences suggest that irrespective of sex and current schooling status of the respondent, rural youth were more likely than urban youth to attend a co-educational facility at all levels of education.

The majority of youth at all levels of education attended government schools or colleges. Even so, some patterns are notable. Youth were more likely to attend private educational facilities at higher secondary level than at any other levels; 24% of young men and 22% of young women pursuing their education at the time of interview attended a private school at higher secondary level compared to 11–14% of youth at primary or middle level and 10–14% at high school level. Second, while urban youth were more likely than rural youth to attend a private educational facility at high school levels, differences were negligible at higher secondary level.

School quality was assessed by questions on the availability of drinking water, toilets, playgrounds and library facilities. Findings from Table 3.5 show differences between those pursuing their education at the time of interview and those who had discontinued their education; but these differences varied by level of education attained and by type of amenity considered.

Among those pursuing their education at the time of interview, the overwhelming majority of youth (89–100%), irrespective of sex, rural-urban residence or level of education attained, had access to drinking water. Playgrounds were available to somewhat fewer (78–89%). Toilet and library facilities were available to fewer and differences by sex, rural-urban residence and level of education attained were evident. Toilet facilities were available to 69–73% of youth attending primary or middle school, 67–82% of those attending high school and 88% of those attending higher secondary or higher levels of education. Library facilities were even less likely to be reported, except among those who had reached higher secondary levels or more: for example, even among those at high school level, library facilities were available to just 30% of young men and half of young women. Rural-urban differences were also evident, urban youth were, for the most part, more likely than rural youth to report the availability of these two facilities.

Reported access to amenities among youth who had discontinued their education varied by the level at which schooling was discontinued. For example, those who had discontinued their education at primary or middle level were far less likely than those pursuing their education to report the availability of drinking water and playgrounds (86–87% reported that drinking water was available and 61–73% reported the availability of playgrounds); these differences were less evident among, those who had discontinued their education at high school level (93–97% and 80–88%, respectively). Toilets and library facilities were far less likely to be reported by those who had discontinued their education than those who were pursuing their education at the time of interview, irrespective of the level of education. Only 36% of young men and 49% of young women who discontinued their education at primary or middle level reported that toilet facilities were available; 58% and 80%, respectively who discontinued at high school level reported the availability of toilets. A similar situation was apparent with regard to the availability of library facilities, with 6% and 20%, respectively, among young men who discontinued their education at primary or middle and high school levels and 25% and 48% among young women, respectively, reporting so. Rural-urban differences were largely negligible, except that urban youth were far more likely than rural youth to report having a toilet facility at their school.

Availability of all four amenities—drinking water, playgrounds, toilets and libraries—increased systematically with level of schooling attained for all youth, irrespective of whether or not they had discontinued their education. Among those still in school, all four amenities were available to 11–32% of youth at primary or middle school level, 21–43% of those at high school level and 53–67% of those at higher secondary level. Among those who had discontinued their education, availability of all four amenities increased from 4–20% among those who discontinued at primary or middle school level to 17–43% of those who discontinued at

Table 3.6: Schooling experiences

Percentage of youth who had completed primary/middle school, high school or higher secondary and above, respectively, by characteristics of school attendance and performance, according to current schooling status and residence, Bihar, 2007

School attendance and performance characteristics (%)	M 15–24	W 15–24	M 15–24	W 15–24	M 15–24	W 15–24	M 15–24	W 15–24	M 15–24	W 15–24	M 15–24	W 15–24	M 15–24	W 15–24	M 15–24	W 15–24	M 15–24	W 15–24
	Combined						Urban						Rural					
	Primary/ middle school		High school		Higher secondary and above		Primary/ middle School		High school		Higher secondary and above		Primary/ middle school		High school		Higher secondary and above	
A. Currently continuing education																		
Attended classes regularly	73.2	83.6	80.0	73.8	63.1	45.2	*	84.2	79.5	79.7	68.1	55.6	(72.7)	83.5	80.1	73.0	61.3	38.1
Private tuition taken	43.7	43.3	70.7	54.1	63.8	46.3	*	47.4	77.3	64.9	73.4	50.7	(44.8)	42.9	69.9	52.1	60.4	43.3
Perceived the academic workload to be heavy	59.2	39.1	40.5	41.3	44.4	26.2	*	26.3	43.2	32.0	43.6	24.5	(59.1)	39.9	40.2	43.2	44.6	27.8
Passed last examination for which appeared	97.2	95.0	93.3	90.4	95.9	98.1	*	100.0	90.9	94.6	97.9	98.0	(98.5)	95.1	93.6	89.6	95.5	98.1
Number currently in school/college	**56**	**268**	**343**	**694**	**470**	**469**	**19**	**75**	**153**	**294**	**325**	**587**	**37**	**193**	**190**	**400**	**145**	**182**
B. Discontinued education before completing Class 12																		
Attended classes regularly	74.3	73.6	75.7	83.9	*	*	71.4	82.5	75.0	85.1	*	*	74.4	72.6	75.4	83.3	*	*
Private tuition taken	30.6	28.5	53.2	50.7	*	*	31.7	33.0	54.5	63.4	*	*	30.5	28.0	52.7	47.5	*	*
Perceived the academic workload to be heavy	53.8	51.1	49.6	34.4	*	*	53.7	46.6	47.7	34.7	*	*	54.1	51.7	50.0	34.3	*	*
Passed last examination for which appeared	87.5	92.9	83.6	92.6	*	*	92.9	91.3	81.8	90.1	*	*	86.7	93.1	83.9	93.2	*	*
Number who discontinued education before completing Class 12	**376**	**1,001**	**294**	**636**	**15**	**10**	**163**	**427**	**174**	**418**	**10**	**7**	**213**	**574**	**120**	**218**	**5**	**3**

*Note: All Ns are unweighted, ( ) Based on 25–49 unweighted cases. *Percentage not shown, based on fewer than 25 unweighted cases.*

high school level. With the exception of young women at high school level, among whom no differences were observed, availability of all four amenities was typically more likely to be reported by those who were studying at the time of interview than those who had discontinued their education, raising the possibility that the availability of amenities may have played a role in school continuation. Gender differences were apparent, with larger percentages of young women than men reporting the availability of all four amenities, most likely because an adequate physical infrastructure, as reflected by the presence of these amenities, was considered a prerequisite for girls to be enrolled in school. Finally, urban youth who were still attending school at high school or higher secondary levels were considerably more likely to report the availability of all four amenities than their rural counterparts. Rural-urban differences among those who had discontinued schooling were negligible.

3.5.2 School/college experiences

Table 3.6 presents young people's schooling experiences, namely, whether or not they attended class regularly, took private tuition, considered the academic workload to be heavy and had passed the last examination for which they had appeared. Among youth who were still attending school, findings show a general decline in regular attendance with the level of schooling attended. Among young men, regular attendance was reported by 73–80% of those at the primary or middle levels and high school level and 63% at higher secondary level; among young women, regular attendance fell from 84% among those in primary or middle school to 74% and 45%, respectively, among those in high school or pursuing a higher education. Rural-urban differences were evident only among young women at the high school level and among both young men and women at the higher secondary level, with those in urban areas more likely than their rural counterparts to report regular attendance.

Percentages of youth who had taken private tuition varied by the level of school attended; youth were more likely to have taken private coaching at high school level (71% and 54% of young men and women, respectively) than any other levels (43–44% among those at primary or middle levels and 64% of young men and 46% of young women, at higher secondary or higher levels). As evident above, except at the primary or middle levels, young men were more likely than young women to have taken private coaching. Rural-urban differences were evident; larger proportions of urban than rural youth reported that they had attended coaching classes.

While approximately equal percentages of young men and women at high school level reported feeling that the academic workload was heavy, gender differences were wide among youth at lower and higher levels. At these levels, more young men than women reported feeling that the academic workload was heavy; for example, 59% of young men and 39% of young women who were in primary or middle schools at the time of the survey reported as such, as did 44% and 26% of those at higher secondary levels. Rural-urban differences were negligible among young men; however, more urban than rural young women currently attending primary or middle schools and high schools perceived that academic workload was heavy.

Most youth over 90% reported that they had passed the last school or college examinations for which they had appeared.

Among youth who had discontinued their education, young women who had done so at primary or middle level were less likely than those who discontinued later to attend school regularly. Corresponding differences were muted among young men. Percentages reporting private tuition increased with level of education at which schooling was discontinued (29–31% and 51–53%, respectively, among those who discontinued at primary or middle, or high school). Half of young men and between one-third and half of young women perceived the academic workload to be heavy. Finally, 84–93% of young men and women reported that they

passed the last examination for which they had appeared, irrespective of the level at which schooling was discontinued. Differences by sex or rural-urban residence were modest.

Schooling experiences differed somewhat among those who had discontinued schooling and those who were studying at the time of interview. Differences in regular attendance did not differ much among young men, young women who were studying at primary or middle levels were somewhat more likely to report regular attendance than those who had discontinued their education at this stage. In contrast, those at high school level were less likely than those who had discontinued at this stage to report regular attendance. At the same time, youth who were continuing their education were considerably more likely to report private tuition (54–71% compared to 51–53% of those who discontinued their education at high school level, for example). No clear pattern could be discerned in the case of perceptions about the academic workload, however, those pursuing their education were, for the most part, more likely to have passed the last examination for which they had appeared.

3.6 Summary

While youth in Bihar were better educated than the population at large in the state, schooling was far from universal among young people. As many as one in six young men and half of young women had never attended school. Findings show, moreover, that young women in rural areas and married young women in general were particularly disadvantaged; 55% of rural young women and 64% of married young women had never been to school.

Not only was school enrolment limited, but school completion rates were also low among young people. Findings show that of those who had completed Class 1, declines in class completion took place as early as Class 3; only 95% and 93% of young men and women, respectively, who had completed one year of schooling had gone on to complete Class 3. Declines in class completion became progressively steeper as the level of schooling increased, with differences between young men and women widening as the level of schooling increased. For example, notable declines occurred between Classes 5 and 6, suggesting that many youth discontinued their education even without completing elementary education. Indeed, just 30% of young men and 13% of young women had completed high school in the state.

What is notable is that, at the time of interview, over half of unmarried young men and fewer than half of unmarried young women (and very few married) were still in school or college.

Leading reasons for never attending school among young men and women were economic (child required for work on the family farm/business or for outside wage earning work, or the family could not afford school-related expenses) and attitudes and perceptions (such as, for example, that education was unnecessary or that children were not interested). Housework-related reasons (required for care of siblings or housework) were additionally an important reason for young women never going to school.

Among those who had ever been to school, leading reasons for discontinuation among young women and men, irrespective of the level at which schooling was discontinued were economic issues and attitudes and perceptions. However, among young women, other factors were also important: school-related factors (academic failure, distance to school, poor school quality and infrastructure) and housework responsibilities continued to be significant motivating factors behind discontinuation at all levels. Of note particularly is that one in seven and two in five young women who had discontinued schooling at primary and high school levels, respectively, reported having done so in order to marry.

Findings also suggest a gender divide in the type of educational facility that youth attended. While young men by and large attended co-educational facilities at all levels of education, young women were less likely to attend a co-educational facility at higher levels of schooling. At the same time, no apparent gender differences were observed in terms of the type of school—government or private—in which youth were enrolled.

Differences were observed in the educational facilities attended by youth who were still in school and those who had discontinued their education at various levels. For example, youth still studying were more likely for the most part to report the availability of water, toilets, playgrounds and libraries than were those who had discontinued. Schooling experiences also differed somewhat among those who had discontinued schooling and those who were studying at the time of interview. For example, young women pursuing their education were more likely than those who had discontinued their education at this level to report regular attendance. Youth who were continuing their education were considerably more likely to report private tuition, and more likely to have passed the last examination for which they had appeared.

Chapter 4

Economic and non-economic activity

The period between the ages of 15 and 29 marks, for many young people, entry into the labour market and economic independence, acquisition of professional and technical skills and new living arrangements. Economic uncertainty, however, dominates the lives of many youth. According to International Labour Organisation (ILO) estimates, although youth (aged 15–24) comprise around 25% of the world's working-age population, they constitute around 44% of the unemployed (ILO, 2006). The unemployment rate among youth has also been identified as one of the key indicators for monitoring the progress towards achieving the UN Millennium Development Goals (UNDP, 2000). For many young people, this period also marks the discontinuation of education and increasing acceptance of domestic responsibilities. This chapter explores the economic activity of young people, their work-related mobility, their participation in non-economic activities (domestic work) and their vocational skill-building experiences and preferences.

4.1 Economic activity

During the survey, a number of questions were asked to assess the economic activity and occupational status of youth. Youth were asked whether they had ever worked, either for or without remuneration. They were also asked whether they had worked in the 12 months preceding the interview, whether they were seeking employment, the type of work in which they engaged, and the number of months during which they had worked or sought work in the year preceding the interview.

Work profiles varied widely, as shown in Table 4.1. In total, three-quarters of young men and about one-half of young women reported that they had been engaged in paid or unpaid work at some point in their lives. Young men and women, particularly young men, were less likely to have engaged in unpaid than in paid work; while 63% of young men had engaged in paid work, only 38% had engaged in unpaid work. The corresponding percentages among young women were 33% and 25%, respectively. Marital status differences indicate that the married were more likely than the unmarried to have engaged in paid or unpaid work. Differences were much wider among young men than young women: almost all married young men (98%) compared to two-thirds of unmarried young men reported having ever worked. Among young women, 53% of the married compared to 38% of the unmarried had ever worked. Rural-urban differences suggest, moreover, that more rural than urban youth had ever worked—77% versus 62% of young men and 50% versus 22% of young women.

For many, work was initiated in childhood, that is, by age 15. Over one-third of young men and women reported that they had initiated either paid or unpaid work by the time they were aged 15. More married than unmarried and more rural than urban youth had initiated economic activity from an early age, irrespective of sex.

Table 4.1: Economic activity

Percentage of youth who ever worked and who worked in last 12 months, and percent distribution of youth by duration of work and main occupation in the last 12 months, according to residence, Bihar, 2007

Economic activity (%)	M 15–24	W 15–24	MM 15–29	MW 15–24	UM 15–24	UW 15–24
Combined						
Ever worked						
Paid work	63.0	33.3	93.9	38.7	52.3	24.3
Unpaid work	37.6	24.7	48.2	26.9	34.4	21.6
Either paid or unpaid work	74.9	47.2	97.8	52.9	67.1	38.0
Started working before age 15	36.9	35.3	45.7	39.8	33.9	28.5
Ever worked in last 12 months						
Paid work	58.9	27.1	89.7	29.8	48.0	23.0
Unpaid work	23.8	15.8	19.5	14.4	25.3	19.2
Either paid or unpaid work	72.7	36.8	96.8	38.0	64.3	36.0
Number of respondents	**1,942**	**5,529**	**1,115**	**2,341**	**1,492**	**3,188**
Duration of paid work in last 12 months						
Most of the year (6 months or more)	64.1	44.3	81.8	47.0	56.3	37.4
Part of the year (3–5 months)	25.3	33.4	15.0	34.2	30.2	31.9
Rarely (less than 3 months)	9.9	20.5	2.7	16.9	13.3	29.1
Main occupation (paid work)						
Cultivator	10.1	0.9	13.0	0.9	10.3	1.4
Agricultural labourer	17.6	83.0	17.9	84.8	15.8	80.3
Administrative/executive/managerial/clerical	7.4	2.3	4.8	1.3	9.4	4.4
Business	6.3	0.3	5.9	0.1	6.7	0.7
Skilled manual/machinery	24.4	8.8	24.1	8.4	23.5	9.0
Unskilled non-agricultural labourer	31.7	4.2	32.2	4.1	31.8	3.7
Other	2.3	0.2	2.0	0.3	2.2	0.0
Number engaged in paid work in last 12 months	**1,106**	**1,085**	**999**	**477**	**705**	**608**
Urban						
Ever worked						
Paid work	54.8	15.4	93.5	17.6	49.0	13.6
Unpaid work	21.8	11.0	32.6	12.7	20.1	9.7
Either paid or unpaid work	62.4	22.3	96.7	25.9	57.6	20.0
Started working before age 15	24.7	10.4	32.6	14.1	23.3	7.7
Ever worked in last 12 months						
Paid work	52.3	10.4	89.1	9.2	46.7	11.3
Unpaid work	11.8	6.4	12.0	4.2	11.9	7.9
Either paid or unpaid work	58.8	15.1	94.6	12.6	53.7	17.0
Number of respondents	**1,039**	**2,581**	**547**	**1,136**	**833**	**1,445**

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Table 4.1: (Cont'd)

Economic activity (%)	M 15–24	W 15–24	MM 15–29	MW 15–24	UM 15–24	UW 15–24
Urban						
Duration of paid work in last 12 months						
Most of the year (6 months or more)	77.4	52.3	90.2	46.2	75.4	56.4
Part of the year (3–5 months)	15.8	21.5	8.5	30.8	16.7	18.2
Rarely (less than 3 months)	6.8	26.2	1.2	23.1	7.9	25.5
Main occupation (paid work)						
Cultivator	2.1	0.0	2.4	0.0	2.6	0.0
Agricultural labourer	1.4	18.5	2.4	30.8	1.7	12.7
Administrative/executive/managerial/clerical	14.4	24.6	9.8	7.7	16.5	32.7
Business	11.6	4.6	13.4	7.7	11.3	3.6
Skilled manual/machinery	30.8	27.7	34.1	23.1	30.4	29.1
Unskilled non-agricultural labourer	36.3	24.6	35.4	30.8	33.9	21.8
Other	3.4	0.0	2.4	0.0	3.5	0.0
Number engaged in paid work in last 12 months	**574**	**263**	**490**	**101**	**390**	**162**
Rural						
Ever worked						
Paid work	64.4	35.7	93.9	40.1	52.9	26.3
Unpaid work	40.3	26.5	49.6	27.8	37.1	23.7
Either paid or unpaid work	77.0	50.4	97.9	54.7	69.0	41.3
Started working before age 15	39.0	38.5	46.8	41.4	36.0	32.3
Ever worked in last 12 months						
Paid work	59.9	29.3	89.6	31.2	48.2	25.2
Unpaid work	25.8	17.0	20.1	15.1	27.9	21.2
Either paid or unpaid work	75.0	39.6	97.0	39.7	66.4	39.5
Number of respondents	**903**	**2,948**	**568**	**1,205**	**659**	**1,743**
Duration of paid work in last 12 months						
Most of the year (6 months or more)	62.2	43.9	81.1	47.0	52.7	35.8
Part of the year (3–5 months)	26.7	34.0	15.6	34.3	32.7	33.0
Rarely (less than 3 months)	10.3	20.3	2.7	16.8	14.3	29.4
Main occupation (paid work)						
Cultivator	11.3	1.0	14.1	0.9	11.8	1.3
Agricultural labourer	19.9	85.9	19.3	85.9	18.4	86.1
Administrative/executive/managerial/clerical	6.3	1.3	4.5	1.0	8.0	2.1
Business	5.5	0.1	5.1	0.0	5.8	0.4
Skilled manual/machinery	23.5	7.9	23.2	8.2	22.3	7.4
Unskilled non-agricultural labourer	31.1	3.3	31.8	3.8	31.4	2.1
Other	2.2	0.2	2.0	0.3	2.0	0.0
Number engaged in paid work in last 12 months	**532**	**822**	**509**	**376**	**315**	**446**

Note: All Ns are unweighted. Column totals may not equal 100% due to missing cases or "don't know" responses.

Table 4.1 also presents the percentages of youth reporting that they had worked any time in the 12 months prior to the interview. We note that the measure of work in the year prior to interview covers a wide range of experiences that go beyond what is typically considered an employment rate (for example, as per the usual principal status definition, employment is defined as those who worked for the major part of the year preceding the interview as a fraction of those in the labour force, that is, those who worked or sought work for the major part of the year). Included in our measure of work are youth who worked for any length of time during the year as a proportion of all youth, irrespective of whether they had worked or sought work in the year preceding the interview.

Percentages of youth who worked in the last 12 months largely mirrored lifetime economic activity for young men. Among young women, this was true for the unmarried. Fewer married young women, however, reported economic activity in the last 12 months compared to lifetime economic activity, a finding that may be attributable to conflict with childbearing and childrearing activities, on the one hand, and, on the other, the tendency of married young women to be secluded from outside work.

Findings also suggest that among young people who worked for remuneration in the year prior to the interview, the majority of young men (64%) worked for at least six months of the year, while somewhat fewer young women (44%) did so. Marital status differences indicate that more married than unmarried young people reported working for most of the year. While this pattern was observed among both men and women in rural areas and men in urban areas, among young women in urban areas the pattern differed: more unmarried than married young women reported having worked most of the year. Rural-urban differences suggest that larger proportions of urban than rural youth reported working for most of the year, 77% compared to 62% among young men and 52% compared to 44% among young women.

Occupational distributions of those engaged in remunerated work in the 12 months preceding the interview indicate that the distribution differed somewhat among young men and considerably among young women in rural and urban areas. The leading occupations among young men in rural areas, reported by 86% of young men, were agricultural work, unskilled non-agricultural labour and skilled labour. In urban areas, the leading occupations, reported by 67% of young men, were unskilled non-agricultural labour and skilled labour. Another 26% of young men in urban areas reported administrative, executive, managerial and clerical occupations (14%) and business (12%). Among young women in rural areas, the leading occupations were agricultural, particularly agricultural labour (86%). In contrast, the leading occupations in urban areas were skilled labour, unskilled non-agricultural labour and administrative, executive, managerial and clerical occupations, together reported by 77% of young women. Notably, 19% of urban young women worked as agricultural labourers.

Differences by marital status were evident in urban areas only. Among young men, the unmarried were somewhat more likely to report administrative, executive, managerial and clerical occupations than the married (17% versus 10%). Among young women, the married were more likely than the unmarried to report agricultural and unskilled non-agricultural labour and less likely to report skilled labour and administrative, executive, managerial and clerical occupations. It is also notable that unmarried young women were less likely than other urban groups to report unskilled labour (22% compared to 31–35%) and conversely, more likely to report administrative, executive, managerial or clerical occupations (33% compared to 8–17%).

Among youth reporting unpaid work in the 12 months preceding the interview, findings suggest that the majority of youth were engaged in agricultural activities, that is, on the family farm (72% and 86% of young men and women, respectively), with considerably fewer (28% and 14%, respectively) working in family business related activities (not shown in tabular form). As expected, more rural than urban youth were engaged in agricultural activities.

4.2 Unemployment

To measure unemployment rates among respondents, the Youth Study assessed (a) whether youth had worked in the 12 months preceding the interview and if so, the number of months worked; and (b) whether youth were seeking work and if so, the number of months during which they had been searching for work. Table 4.2 reports unemployment rates, defined as those seeking employment for the major part of the year preceding the interview as a fraction of those in the labour force. Labour force refers to those who were working or seeking work for the major part of the year. It does not, therefore, include those exclusively studying, those who may have worked for a short period in the year preceding the interview, or those who had sought work for a short period in the year preceding the interview.

Measured in this way, the percentage of unemployed youth was 22% among young men and 36% among young women, rates considerably higher than those observed by the National Sample Survey (NSS) (NSSO, 2006) among youth using the principal usual status definition. We note, however, that rates obtained in the Youth Study are not quite comparable to the NSS, not only because the questions were not identical, but also because of differences in the frequency with which information was obtained and corresponding differences in the recall period (quarterly in the NSS as compared to a 12-month recall period in the Youth Study) and differences in the household member eligible to provide information on youth unemployment (any household member in the NSS compared to the individual herself or himself in the Youth Study).

Table 4.2: Unemployment

Percentage of youth in the labour force who were unemployed, according to residence, Bihar, 2007

Unemployment (%)[1]	M 15–24	W 15–24	MM 15–29	MW 15–24	UM 15–24	UW 15–24
Combined						
Unemployed	22.4	35.7	9.8	34.5	28.8	37.6
Number in labour force	**1,126**	**1,029**	**1,002**	**487**	**740**	**542**
Urban						
Unemployed	21.7	58.3	7.1	68.2	24.6	51.2
Number in labour force	**611**	**419**	**497**	**181**	**432**	**238**
Rural						
Unemployed	22.7	33.7	10.0	33.2	29.6	35.3
Number in labour force	**515**	**610**	**505**	**306**	**308**	**304**

Note: All Ns are unweighted. [1]Unemployment rate: Youth who were seeking work for the major part of the year preceding the interview as a proportion of those in the labour force (namely, those who were employed and/or seeking work for the major part of the year).

Findings suggest that while gender differences were evident in both urban and rural areas, these were much wider in urban areas: 58% of young women compared to 22% of young men reported unemployment in urban areas, and the corresponding percentages were 34% and 23%, respectively, in rural areas. Differences by marital status indicate that unmarried young men were almost three times as likely as married young men to report unemployment. Among young women, differences by marital status were muted for the overall and rural population. In urban areas, however, the married were more likely than the unmarried to report unemployment. Unemployment rates in urban and rural areas were similar among young men (22–23%), but

differed considerably among young women. Larger proportions of urban than rural young women reported unemployment (58% versus 34%).

Table 4.3 describes socio-economic differentials in reported unemployment among young men and women. While unemployment appeared to be somewhat higher among younger (aged 15–19) than older (aged 20–24) men, the reverse was true among young women. Differences by religion suggest that while unemployment was higher among Hindu than Muslim young men, the reverse was true among young women. Caste-wise differences indicate that young men and women belonging to general castes reported the highest rate of unemployment. Unemployment rates increased consistently with education among young men; it increased from 11% among those with no formal education to 47% among those who had completed Class 12. The patterns were less consistent among young women; even so, unemployment rate increased from 15% among those with no formal education to 77% among those who had completed 8–11 years of schooling and 68% among those who had completed Class 12. The relative dearth of employment opportunities for the educated is reiterated in other studies as well (Chandrasekhar, Ghosh and Roychowdhury, 2006; NSSO, 2006). Differences by family economic status suggest that unemployment rates were the highest among young people in households belonging to the wealthiest quintile and the differences were much wider among young women than young men, possibly reflecting the dearth of employment opportunities for educated youth, who were considerably more likely to belong to households in the wealthiest quintile than to other households.

In general, similar patterns of unemployment were observed among both married and unmarried youth. However, the associations, described above, between caste and economic status with unemployment were not evident among married young men.

Patterns by rural-urban residence were, by and large, similar to the patterns observed for young men and women in general, except that some of the associations, described above, were not consistently observed among young people in urban areas (caste and unemployment among young men, and religion and unemployment among young women, for example).

4.3 Work-related mobility

Among young men who had ever worked, over two-fifths reported the experience of work-related mobility, as shown in Table 4.4. Just 2% of young women, in contrast, had lived away from home for work-related reasons. Gender differences may be attributed to the finding observed earlier that men were more likely than women to be engaged in such activities as non-agricultural labour and skilled manual labour, which entail mobility; they may also be attributed to the greater restrictions placed on the independent movement of young women than young men.

Differences by marital status indicate that married young men were considerably more likely to have experienced work-related mobility than unmarried men (63% versus 34%), perhaps a function of the fact that married men tended to be older and have more work experience than the unmarried. Rural-urban differences suggest that rural young men were more likely to report work-related mobility than their urban counterparts, perhaps because rural work opportunities were more seasonal than urban work opportunities, requiring rural young men to explore work opportunities outside their home settings. Almost four-fifths of young men (79%) who reported work-related mobility had remained outside their home village or neighbourhood for three months or longer. Not only did few young women report having lived outside the home village or neighbourhood for work, but among those who had, considerably fewer than their male peers reported living away for three or more months (28%).

Table 4.3: Unemployment by selected background characteristics

Percentage of youth in the labour force who were unemployed by selected background characteristics, according to residence, Bihar, 2007

Background characteristics (%)	M 15–24	W 15–24	MM 15–29	MW 15–24	UM 15–24	UW 15–24
Combined						
Age (years)						
15–19	25.7	33.2	(14.5)	31.7	27.6	34.5
20–24	19.9	38.1	12.4	36.0	30.8	56.8
25–29	NA	NA	7.8	NA	NA	NA
Religion						
Hindu	23.7	34.6	10.3	33.4	29.9	36.6
Muslim	15.5	43.7	6.2	45.3	22.1	41.8
Caste						
SC	20.6	22.2	12.5	22.4	24.0	20.5
OBC	20.5	37.4	8.3	37.3	26.3	36.5
General[1]	33.7	63.9	9.6	64.9	40.4	61.7
Educational level (years)						
None[2]	10.5	15.4	7.0	15.9	10.2	12.1
1–7	15.0	48.8	6.3	55.8	18.1	35.8
8–11	27.6	77.4	12.2	79.3	33.9	75.0
12 and above	47.3	68.2	20.0	(70.4)	56.1	65.6
Wealth quintile						
First	20.9	25.8	12.3	25.7	(20.4)	24.2
Second	15.3	21.1	7.4	19.1	20.3	27.6
Third	16.5	29.6	9.5	30.1	17.9	26.5
Fourth	21.7	41.6	7.0	44.0	29.6	36.6
Fifth	30.5	71.3	12.5	76.3	38.3	64.8
Total	**22.4**	**35.7**	**9.8**	**34.5**	**28.8**	**37.6**
Urban						
Age (years)						
15–19	25.4	50.0	*	(50.0)	26.2	49.0
20–24	18.9	64.9	7.1	72.2	24.2	54.8
25–29	NA	NA	5.7	NA	NA	NA
Religion						
Hindu	23.2	62.0	8.5	66.7	27.3	57.7
Muslim	15.6	50.0	0.0	(75.0)	17.9	43.3
Caste						
SC	27.8	46.2	7.7	(50.0)	(38.5)	*
OBC	17.5	56.3	5.7	69.2	19.5	49.1
Genearl[1]	29.4	68.0	11.8	(80.0)	33.3	61.9

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Table 4.3: (Cont'd)

Background characteristics (%)	M 15–24	W 15–24	MM 15–29	MW 15–24	UM 15–24	UW 15–24
Urban						
Educational level (years)						
None[2]	7.7	32.1	5.6	42.9	5.9	25.0
1–7	5.7	55.6	0.0	(75.0)	7.1	(41.7)
8–11	22.2	74.1	6.5	85.7	25.6	65.0
12 and above	42.9	67.7	16.7	(75.0)	45.9	63.3
Wealth quintile						
First	*	*	*	*	*	*
Second	(11.1)	(50.0)	(0.0)	*	*	*
Third	(9.1)	(41.7)	(0.0)	*	(12.5)	(33.3)
Fourth	15.2	56.3	6.3	(66.7)	20.0	(50.0)
Fifth	25.5	64.1	7.8	76.9	29.1	56.6
Total	**21.7**	**58.3**	**7.1**	**68.2**	**24.6**	**51.2**
Rural						
Age (years)						
15–19	25.7	31.8	(13.3)	31.3	27.9	32.5
20–24	20.1	35.4	12.6	34.3	32.8	57.1
25–29	NA	NA	8.0	NA	NA	NA
Religion						
Hindu	23.7	32.6	10.5	32.2	30.4	33.7
Muslim	16.1	42.1	6.8	(42.9)	(24.7)	41.8
Caste						
SC	20.0	21.4	12.8	21.9	(22.0)	18.4
OBC	21.2	35.4	8.5	35.9	27.8	34.4
General[1]	34.6	62.3	(10.2)	(63.5)	42.5	(61.6)
Educational level (years)						
None[2]	10.8	14.7	7.1	15.4	10.1	11.2
1–7	15.7	48.3	6.3	55.6	19.8	35.3
8–11	28.6	78.0	12.8	(78.9)	35.5	76.9
12 and above	48.8	(68.5)	20.0	*	(60.5)	*
Wealth quintile						
First	21.3	25.5	12.5	25.7	(20.8)	24.5
Second	15.6	20.5	7.7	18.8	(20.5)	26.7
Third	16.8	28.8	9.8	29.7	18.3	25.8
Fourth	22.4	40.3	6.6	(43.2)	31.0	35.5
Fifth	32.5	74.3	13.6	(76.1)	43.4	(70.7)
Total	**22.7**	**33.7**	**10.0**	**33.2**	**29.6**	**35.3**

*Note: ( ) Based on 25-49 unweighted cases. *Percentage not shown, based on fewer than 25 unweighted cases. NA: Not applicable. OBC: Other backward caste. SC: Scheduled caste. ST: Scheduled tribe. [1]Includes all those not belonging to SC, ST or OBC. [2]Includes non-literate and literate with no formal schooling.*

Table 4.4: Work-related mobility

Percentage of youth who had ever lived outside their home village/area for work, according to residence, Bihar, 2007

Mobility characteristics (%)	M 15–24	W 15–24	MM 15–29	MW 15–24	UM 15–24	UW 15–24
Combined						
Work-related mobility						
Ever stayed outside village/area for work	43.8	2.3	62.9	2.5	34.2	2.0
Number ever worked	**1,360**	**1,965**	**1,088**	**948**	**929**	**1,017**
Stayed outside village/area for 3 months or longer	78.6	(27.6)	78.5	*	82.7	*
Number ever stayed out of home village/area for work	**514**	**43**	**576**	**21**	**279**	**22**
Urban						
Work-related mobility						
Ever stayed outside village/area for work	28.7	2.8	40.4	2.7	24.8	3.1
Number ever worked	**674**	**582**	**532**	**292**	**479**	**290**
Stayed outside village/area for 3 months or longer	66.0	*	66.7	*	65.7	*
Number ever stayed out of home village/area for work	**204**	**15**	**215**	**6**	**120**	**9**
Rural						
Work-related mobility						
Ever stayed outside village/area for work	45.8	2.3	64.9	2.5	35.8	1.8
Number ever worked	**686**	**1,383**	**556**	**656**	**450**	**727**
Stayed outside village/area for 3 months or longer	79.5	(24.1)	79.1	*	84.7	*
Number ever stayed out of home village/area for work	**310**	**28**	**361**	**15**	**159**	**13**

*Note: All Ns are unweighted. ( ) Based on 25–49 unweighted cases. *Percentage not shown, based on fewer than 25 unweighted cases.*

4.4 Economic activity and schooling status

While the period of transition to adulthood is marked by discontinuation of schooling and entry into the labour market for many young people, some combine schooling and work and others are neither in school nor working. Data collected through the Life Event Calendar component of the Youth Study provided an opportunity to explore the pattern of these events (that is, studying, working, both studying and working, and neither studying nor working) in young people's lives from the age of 12, and these are presented in Figures 4.1a-c. Patterns varied widely by sex and marital status of the respondent. We note that Figures 4.1a and 4.1b convey the situation both prior to and following marriage for married youth.

A comparison of the two panels of Figure 4.1a shows, first, that the proportion of youth reporting school attendance declined steadily across all groups as young people transitioned out of early adolescence to late adolescence and young adulthood. For example, while 77% of young men and 43% of young women were in school (a small minority of these were also working) at age 12, the percentage who remained in school at age 15 fell to 62% for young men and 31% for young women. Moreover, the rates of decline in school

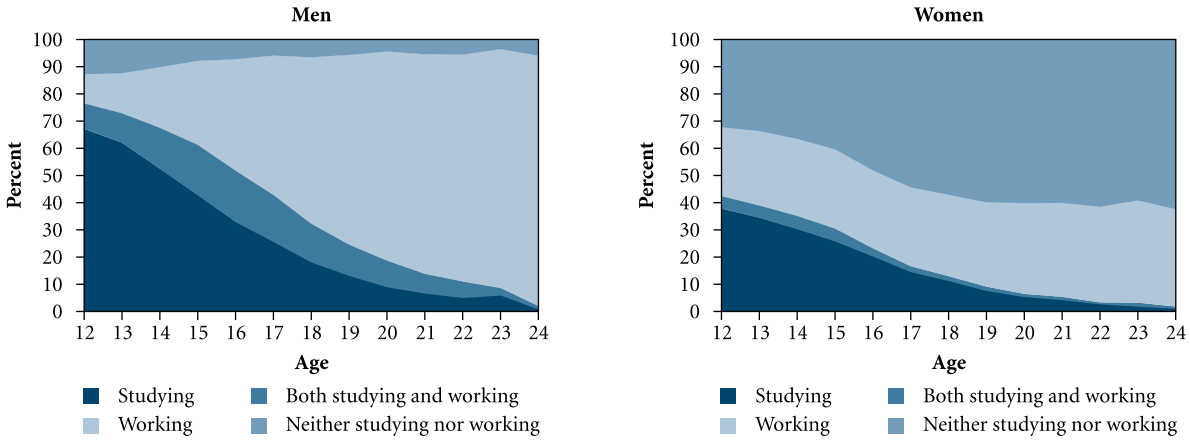
attendance were steepest between ages 16–19 for young men and 15–17 for young women. Second, between one in ten and one in five young men reported having combined studying and working during adolescence and the percentages of young men who so reported peaked at ages 15–17 and declined thereafter. Among young women, in contrast, very few (5% or less) combined studying and working at any age. Third, exit from school was accompanied by a steady rise in work participation over the ages among young men, but not so among young women. Among young men, larger percentages were working than in school as early as by age 16. Among young women, work participation remained more or less steady at all ages. Finally, significant proportions of young women but not young men were neither in school nor working from age 12 onwards. Among young men, small proportions (one in 8 or fewer) were neither working nor in school at any age. Among young women, there was a steady increase by age. At age 12, 32% of young women were neither working nor in school; percentages increased to 40% at age 15 and 59% at age 20.

Figures 4.1b and 4.1c suggest that patterns differed between married and unmarried youth. For one, the married were less likely than the unmarried to be in school at each age. For example, 61% and 30% of married young men and women, respectively, and 82% and 65% of the unmarried, respectively, were in school (a small minority of these were also working) at age 12, and the percentages of those who remained in school fell thereafter. At age 20, for example, only 11% of married young men and 4% of married young women were pursuing their education compared to 33% and 46% of unmarried young men and women, respectively. Second, the unmarried were more likely than the married to have combined schooling and work at most ages, and the differences between the married and the unmarried were particularly evident among young men at ages 15–23, that is high school and college going ages; differences were milder among young women. Third, while considerably larger percentages of married than unmarried young men were neither in school nor working in early adolescence, a reverse pattern was observed once young men transitioned out of adolescence to young adulthood. Among young women, more married than unmarried were neither in school nor working from age 12. The percentage of those neither in school nor working increased steadily till age 17 and thereafter plateaued among married young women; among unmarried young women, it continued to increase even at later ages. Finally, the ages at which more youth were working than in school were 15 and 17 among married and unmarried young men, respectively. Among young women, the pattern differed between the married and the unmarried: even at age 12, more were working than in school among the married and even at age 24, more were in school than working among the unmarried. We note, however that the sample contains few women aged 23–24 and that estimates in these ages may have been affected as a result.

4.5 Participation in non-economic activity

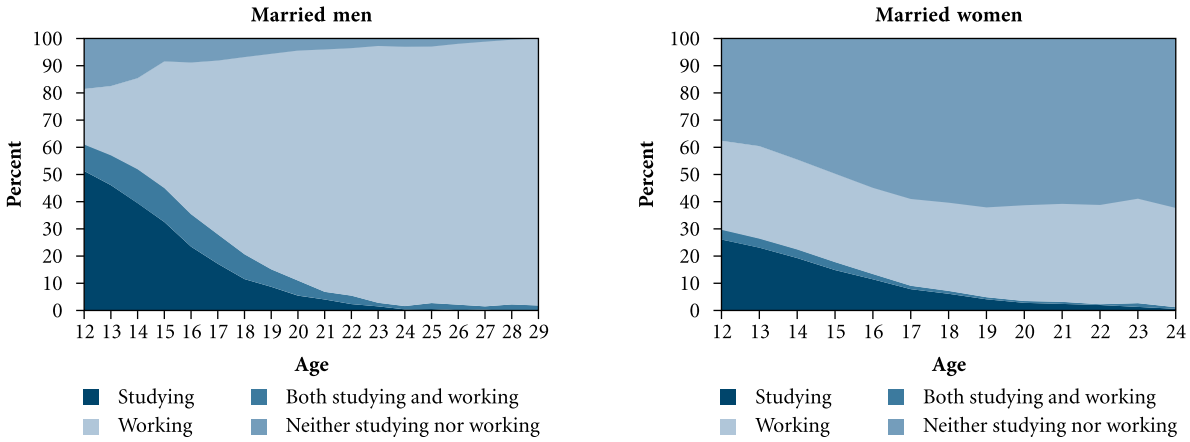
The Youth Study also inquired about the extent to which young men and women participated in domestic chores. All youth were asked whether and how frequently they were engaged in activities such as housework (cooking, cleaning, child/sibling care), shopping for groceries for the family and tasks such as collecting firewood or fetching water, and paying electricity or phone bills (as appropriate for urban and rural areas). Findings, reported in Table 4.5 and Figure 4.2, highlight the gendered nature of young people's participation in domestic chores. Young women were more likely than young men to be engaged in work inside the home, and less likely to be engaged in tasks that violated norms restricting their mobility outside the home. For example, the vast majority of young women (90%) were often engaged in housework, compared with just 7% of young men. In contrast, 95% of young men reported sometimes or often shopping for groceries, compared with 33% of young women. Likewise, 85% of young men, compared to 40% of young women reported participating sometimes or often in tasks such as collecting firewood or fetching water, and paying electricity or phone bills.

Figure 4.1a: Economic activity and schooling status among youth aged 15–24, by age, Bihar, 2007



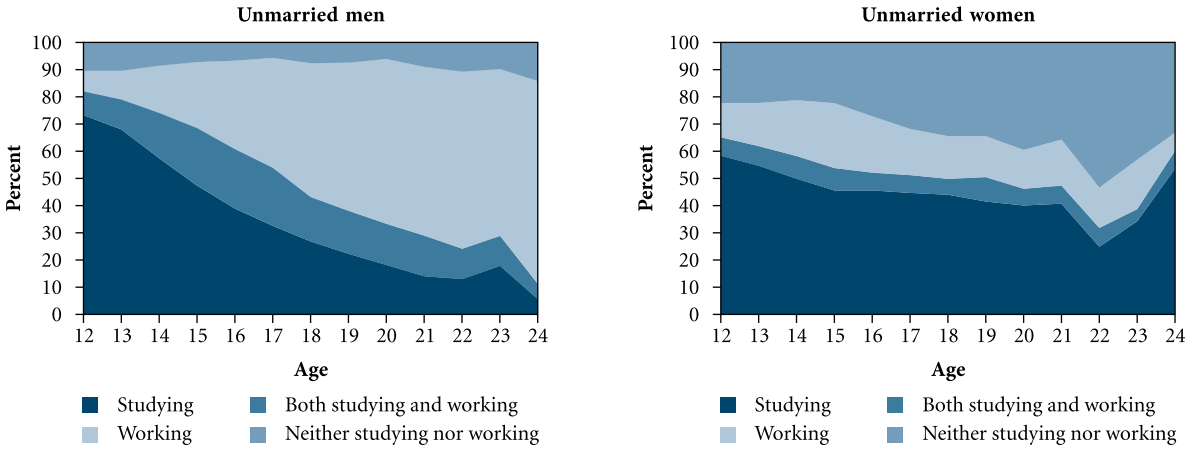
Note: For married youth, the figure conveys the situation prior to and following marriage.

Figure 4.1b: Economic activity and schooling status among married men aged 15–29 and married women aged 15–24, by age, Bihar, 2007



Note: For married youth, the figure conveys the situation prior to and following marriage.

Figure 4.1c: Economic activity and schooling status among unmarried men and women aged 15–24, by age, Bihar, 2007



In terms of differences in participation in household chores by marital status, patterns varied by type of activity. For example, the unmarried were as likely as the married to engage in housework and shopping but somewhat less likely than the married to engage in tasks such as collecting firewood or fetching water (rural settings), and paying electricity or phone bills (urban settings). The patterns remained, by and large, similar in both urban and rural areas. However in urban areas, unmarried young women were considerably more likely than married young women to report shopping for groceries. Frequency of engaging in domestic activities varied. Larger proportions of married than unmarried young women reported engaging in housework and such tasks as collecting firewood or fetching water, and paying electricity or phone bills on a regular basis; likewise, married young men were more likely than the unmarried to report shopping and engaging in such tasks as collecting firewood or fetching water, and paying electricity or phone bills on a regular basis.

Rural-urban differences were moderate but suggest that urban youth were considerably less likely than their rural counterparts to report engaging in such tasks as collecting firewood or fetching water, and paying bills. Differences were particularly evident for young women upon whom much of the responsibility for collecting firewood and water rested in rural areas. In addition, urban young men were moderately more likely than rural young men to report engaging in housework.

4.6 Participation in vocational training programmes

A number of vocational training opportunities are available to youth through government, non-government and private organisations. Our survey inquired whether respondents had attended any such programmes, and the kinds of programmes they would like to attend, if offered. Findings, presented in Table 4.6 and Figure 4.3, indicate that 14% of young men and 10% of young women had ever attended a vocational training programme. While differences by marital status were modest, rural-urban differences were considerable. Urban youth were far more likely to have received training than their rural counterparts (26% and 25% among young men and women, respectively, in urban areas, compared with 12% and 8%, respectively, in rural areas).

Figure 4.2: Percentage of youth who participated in domestic chores, according to residence, Bihar, 2007

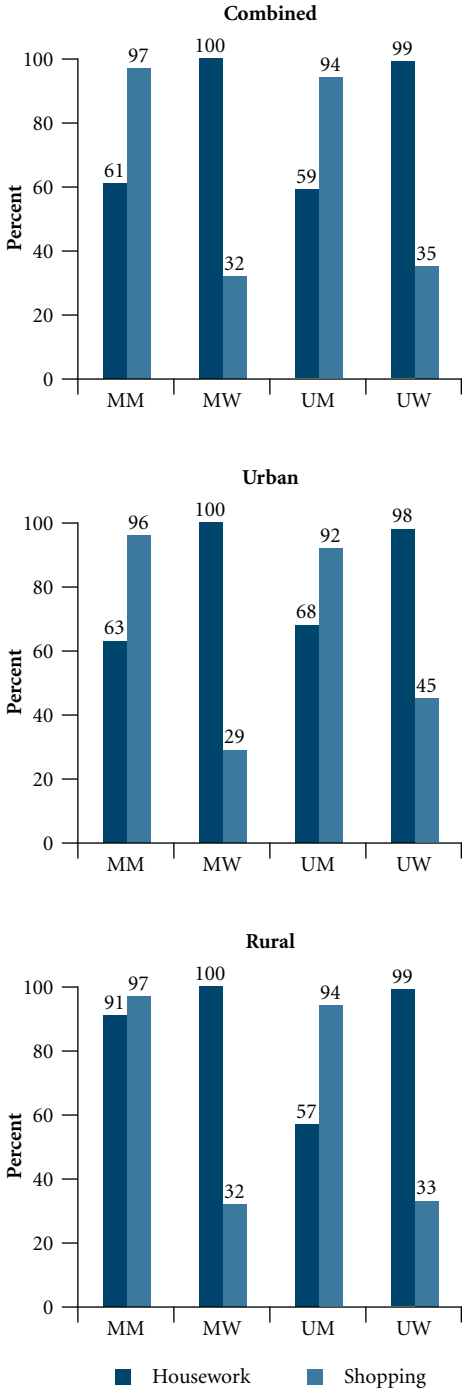


Table 4.5: Participation in household chores

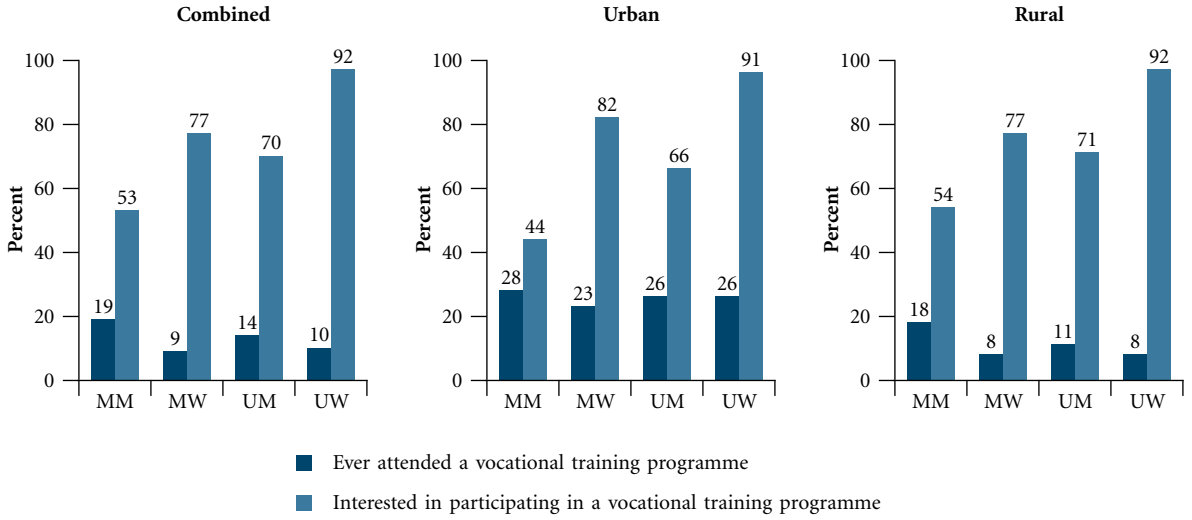
Percent distribution of youth by extent of participation in various household chores, according to residence, Bihar, 2007

Types of chores (%)	M 15–24	W 15–24	MM 15–29	MW 15–24	UM 15–24	UW 15–24
Combined						
Housework[1]						
Never	40.7	0.5	38.9	0.0	41.3	1.5
Sometimes	52.2	9.1	53.2	3.4	51.8	19.6
Often	7.0	90.3	7.7	96.6	6.9	78.9
Shopping						
Never	5.5	67.1	2.6	68.2	6.4	65.4
Sometimes	62.7	25.6	48.2	23.2	65.8	29.6
Often	31.8	7.3	49.1	8.6	27.9	5.0
Other tasks[2]						
Never	14.9	59.9	8.9	57.3	16.6	63.0
Sometimes	59.6	16.6	51.6	16.2	60.3	17.8
Often	25.6	23.5	39.4	26.5	23.1	19.2
Number of respondents	**1,942**	**5,529**	**1,115**	**2,341**	**1,492**	**3,188**
Urban						
Housework[1]						
Never	32.3	1.1	37.4	0.0	31.8	1.8
Sometimes	55.9	16.0	57.1	4.9	55.5	24.0
Often	11.8	82.9	5.5	95.1	12.7	74.1
Shopping						
Never	7.5	61.5	4.3	70.6	7.8	54.7
Sometimes	57.1	32.7	47.8	23.8	58.2	39.3
Often	35.4	5.8	47.8	5.6	34.0	6.1
Other tasks[2]						
Never	18.7	87.8	13.0	86.6	19.7	88.5
Sometimes	53.2	8.0	48.9	8.5	53.3	7.7
Often	28.1	4.2	38.0	4.9	27.0	3.8
Number of respondents	**1,039**	**2,581**	**547**	**1,136**	**833**	**1,445**
Rural						
Housework[1]						
Never	42.1	0.4	39.1	0.0	43.2	1.4
Sometimes	51.6	8.2	52.8	3.3	51.0	18.9
Often	6.2	91.3	7.9	96.7	5.8	79.7
Shopping						
Never	5.2	67.8	2.4	68.0	6.1	67.4
Sometimes	63.6	24.7	48.2	23.2	67.3	27.8
Often	31.2	7.5	49.2	8.8	26.6	4.8
Other tasks[2]						
Never	14.2	56.3	8.5	55.4	16.0	58.3
Sometimes	60.7	17.7	51.8	16.7	61.7	19.7
Often	25.1	26.0	39.5	27.9	22.3	22.0
Number of respondents	**903**	**2,948**	**568**	**1,205**	**659**	**1,743**

Note: All Ns are unweighted. Column totals may not equal 100% due to missing cases or "don't know" responses. [1]Includes cooking, cleaning, etc. [2]Respondents were given examples of other tasks such as collecting firewood, fetching water, grazing livestock, paying bills, etc.

The kind of training received varied by sex of the respondent and rural-urban residence. Among young men, leading training programmes reported were focused on computer skills (23%) and auto mechanics or electrical work (20%). Between one in ten and one in seven young men also reported having received training in tailoring, driving, plumbing or masonry, English language and secretarial skills and handicrafts. Key training received by young women was quite different: 82% reported training in tailoring and 31% in handicrafts. The unmarried were more likely to report training in new technologies than the married. For example, 27% of unmarried young men compared to 12% of married young men reported computer training; corresponding figures for young women were 11% and 2%, respectively. Finally, training received by rural youth was more likely than that obtained by urban youth to fall into more traditional activities. For example, rural young men were far more likely than their urban counterparts to have received training in driving and plumbing or masonry, and, conversely, less likely to have been trained in computer skills or English language, typing or shorthand.

Figure 4.3: Percentage of youth who ever attended a vocational training programme and percentage who were interested in participating in such programmes, according to residence, Bihar, 2007



Large proportions of youth—66% of young men and 82% of young women—reported interest in attending vocational training programmes, as shown in Table 4.7. Although more unmarried than married youth expressed interest in attending vocational training programmes, it is notable that over half of married men and over three-quarters of married women were interested in developing vocational skills. Rural-urban differences were modest, except that more married youth in rural areas than in urban areas expressed interest in acquiring vocational skills. Skills in which youth wished to be trained virtually mirrored the patterns revealed above. The majority of young women continued to wish to be trained in areas such as tailoring and handicrafts. Young men's preferences, in contrast, were focused on computer training, auto mechanics or electrical work and driving.

Table 4.6: Participation in vocational training programmes

Percentage of youth who ever attended a vocational training programme and type of programme attended, according to residence, Bihar, 2007

Programmes/courses attended (%)	M 15–24	W 15–24	MM 15–29	MW 15–24	UM 15–24	UW 15–24
Combined						
Ever attended a vocational training programme	14.0	10.0	18.9	9.3	13.7	10.4
Number of respondents	**1,942**	**5,529**	**1,115**	**2,341**	**1,492**	**3,188**
Types of programmes/courses attended						
Tailoring	9.1	82.3	10.9	89.0	6.3	73.8
Auto mechanic/electrical work	20.4	0.0	23.7	0.0	18.6	0.0
Driving	10.9	0.0	17.1	0.0	8.8	0.0
Plumbing/masonry	9.5	0.0	19.0	0.0	10.7	0.0
Poultry/goat farm	0.7	0.0	0.9	0.0	0.0	0.0
Beauty parlour/salon	1.8	4.3	2.8	3.2	0.5	5.7
Nurse's aid	2.6	0.5	2.8	0.9	3.4	0.0
Computer training	23.4	5.8	12.3	1.8	27.3	10.8
English language/typing/shorthand	10.6	2.2	5.7	0.5	13.2	4.2
Handicrafts/painting/embroidery/cooking	15.0	30.6	10.9	27.5	14.6	34.0
Other	2.2	0.9	0.9	0.9	2.0	0.9
Number ever attended any vocational training	**372**	**865**	**258**	**363**	**291**	**502**
Urban						
Ever attended a vocational training programme	25.8	24.8	28.3	23.2	26.2	25.9
Number of respondents	**1,039**	**2,581**	**547**	**1,136**	**833**	**1,445**
Types of programmes/courses attended						
Tailoring	4.2	65.8	3.8	84.8	4.7	54.7
Auto mechanic/electrical work	19.4	0.0	25.9	0.0	18.8	0.0
Driving	4.2	0.0	15.4	0.0	3.1	0.0
Plumbing/masonry	4.2	0.0	11.5	0.0	3.1	0.0
Poultry/goat farm	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Beauty parlour/salon	1.4	7.6	0.0	6.1	1.6	9.4
Nurse's aid	1.4	0.0	3.8	0.0	0.0	0.0
Computer training	51.4	17.7	19.2	6.1	54.7	25.8
English language/typing/shorthand	15.3	7.0	15.4	3.0	15.6	9.4
Handicrafts/painting/embroidery/cooking	11.1	41.1	15.4	39.4	9.4	43.0
Other	1.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.5	0.0
Number ever attended any vocational training	**265**	**634**	**155**	**262**	**217**	**372**
Rural						
Ever attended a vocational training programme	12.0	8.1	18.1	8.4	11.2	7.6
Number of respondents	**903**	**2,948**	**568**	**1,205**	**659**	**1,743**
Types of programmes/courses attended						
Tailoring	10.9	88.9	11.9	90.2	7.1	86.2
Auto mechanic/electrical work	20.8	0.0	23.2	0.0	18.6	0.0
Driving	12.9	0.0	17.8	0.0	10.7	0.0
Plumbing/masonry	11.4	0.0	20.0	0.0	13.6	0.0
Poultry/goat farm	1.0	0.0	1.1	0.0	0.0	0.0
Beauty parlour/salon	2.0	3.0	2.7	3.2	0.0	2.9
Nurse's aid	3.0	0.8	2.7	1.1	4.3	0.0
Computer training	13.9	1.3	10.8	1.1	14.3	1.5
English language/typing/shorthand	8.9	0.3	4.3	0.0	12.1	1.0
Handicrafts/painting/embroidery/cooking	16.4	26.4	10.2	25.5	17.0	28.4
Other	3.0	1.3	1.1	1.1	2.8	1.5
Number ever attended any vocational training	**107**	**231**	**103**	**101**	**74**	**130**

Note: All Ns are unweighted. Column totals may exceed 100% due to multiple responses.

Table 4.7: Willingness of youth to participate in vocational training programmes

Percentage of youth interested in participating in vocational training programmes and type of programme they were interested in participating in, according to residence, Bihar, 2007

Programmes/courses (%)	M 15–24	W 15–24	MM 15–29	MW 15–24	UM 15–24	UW 15–24
Combined						
Interested in participating in a vocational training programme	66.2	82.3	52.7	77.1	70.0	91.9
Number of respondents	**1,942**	**5,529**	**1,115**	**2,341**	**1,492**	**3,188**
Types of programmes in which youth wished to participate						
Tailoring	9.2	89.7	8.8	92.7	8.6	86.2
Auto mechanic/electric work	31.8	0.0	41.3	0.0	30.1	0.1
Driving	14.2	0.1	22.6	0.0	12.5	0.1
Plumbing/masonry	8.4	0.0	18.5	0.0	5.7	0.1
Poultry/goat farm	1.1	0.1	0.9	0.1	1.1	0.0
Beauty parlour/salon	0.3	4.0	0.3	2.4	0.2	6.0
Nurse's aid	1.1	1.2	1.5	1.0	1.1	1.6
Computer training	38.7	7.3	13.8	1.7	45.6	15.0
English language/typing/shorthand	7.9	2.6	1.2	0.9	9.8	4.9
Handicrafts/painting/embroidery/cooking	4.3	56.4	5.3	53.6	3.9	60.6
Number interested in participating in a vocational training programme	**1,258**	**4,780**	**540**	**1,855**	**1,017**	**2,925**
Urban						
Interested in participating in a vocational training programme	64.2	87.3	43.5	81.7	66.1	91.3
Number of respondents	**1,039**	**2,581**	**547**	**1,136**	**833**	**1,445**
Types of programmes in which youth wished to participate						
Tailoring	3.4	70.3	2.5	81.0	3.7	63.5
Auto mechanic/electric work	29.6	0.2	40.0	0.0	28.0	0.2
Driving	9.0	0.2	17.5	0.0	8.0	0.2
Plumbing/masonry	2.8	0.0	7.5	0.0	1.9	0.0
Poultry/goat farm	0.6	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.6	0.0
Beauty parlour/salon	0.0	12.8	0.0	9.5	0.0	14.8
Nurse's aid	0.6	1.4	0.0	0.9	0.6	1.6
Computer training	56.4	24.3	32.5	7.8	58.6	35.0
English language/typing/shorthand	11.7	8.8	5.0	1.7	13.0	13.1
Handicrafts/painting/embroidery/cooking	5.6	60.9	7.5	62.1	5.6	60.0
Number interested in participating in a vocational training programme	**654**	**2,251**	**237**	**929**	**551**	**1,322**

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Table 4.7: (Cont'd)

Programmes/courses (%)	M 15–24	W 15–24	MM 15–29	MW 15–24	UM 15–24	UW 15–24
Rural						
Interested in participating in a vocational training programme	66.6	81.7	53.6	76.9	70.8	92.0
Number of respondents	**903**	**2,948**	**568**	**1,205**	**659**	**1,743**
Types of programmes in which youth wished to participate						
Tailoring	10.1	92.4	9.1	93.5	9.5	90.3
Auto mechanic/electric work	32.2	0.0	41.4	0.0	30.6	0.1
Driving	15.0	0.1	23.0	0.0	13.3	0.1
Plumbing/masonry	9.3	0.0	19.3	0.0	6.5	0.1
Poultry/goat farm	1.2	0.1	0.9	0.1	1.2	0.0
Beauty parlour/salon	0.4	2.8	0.4	1.9	0.2	4.4
Nurse's aid	1.1	1.2	1.6	1.0	1.2	1.6
Computer training	35.9	5.0	12.2	1.4	43.1	11.4
English language/typing/shorthand	7.3	1.8	0.9	0.8	9.2	3.4
Handicrafts/painting/embroidery/cooking	4.2	55.8	4.9	53.0	3.6	60.8
Number interested in participating in a vocational training programme	**604**	**2,529**	**303**	**926**	**466**	**1,603**

Note: All Ns are unweighted. Column totals may exceed 100% due to multiple responses.

4.7 Summary

Work profiles suggest that three-quarters of young men and about one-half of young women had at some time engaged in paid or unpaid work. Indeed, almost all married young men and two-thirds of unmarried young men had done so, compared with over half and about two-fifths of married and unmarried young women, respectively. Likewise, more youth in rural than urban areas had ever worked. While the majority of youth were engaged in paid work, considerable proportions of young men (38%) and women (25%) reported unpaid work on the family farm or business. Economic activity was often initiated at an early age: over one in three young men and women reported initiating work as children (before age 15). Data on work participation in the 12 months prior to interview indicate that the majority of young men (64% of unmarried and 97% of married) and a substantial proportion of young women (36% and 38%, respectively) had engaged in paid or unpaid work at some point in the 12 months preceding the survey. The majority of young men (64%) who worked in the year prior to the interview had done so for the major part (at least six months) of the year. In contrast among young women, over two-fifths (44%) had done so.

Occupational profiles among those working for wages differed somewhat among young men and considerably among young women in rural and urban areas. In rural areas, among young men, the leading occupations were agricultural work, unskilled non-agricultural and skilled labour, together reported by 86% of young men. Among young women in rural areas, the leading occupations were agricultural, particularly agricultural labour in which as many as 86% were employed. In urban areas, leading occupations were similar for both young men and women and included unskilled non-agricultural labour, skilled labour and administrative, executive, managerial and clerical occupations together reported by 82% of young men and 77% of young

women. It is also notable that more unmarried young women reported administrative, executive, managerial or clerical occupations, compared to other urban groups.

Findings also show substantial levels of unemployment among young men (22%) and women (36%). Unemployment tended to be considerably higher among unmarried than married young men, but similar among married and unmarried young women. Unemployment was particularly high among the educated and economically better off.

Youth were clearly interested in acquiring skills that would enable employment generation; two in three young men and four in five young women reported interest in vocational skill training. However, far fewer—just 14% of young men and 10% of young women—had attended even one vocational training programme.

Chapter 5

Media exposure and access to pornographic materials

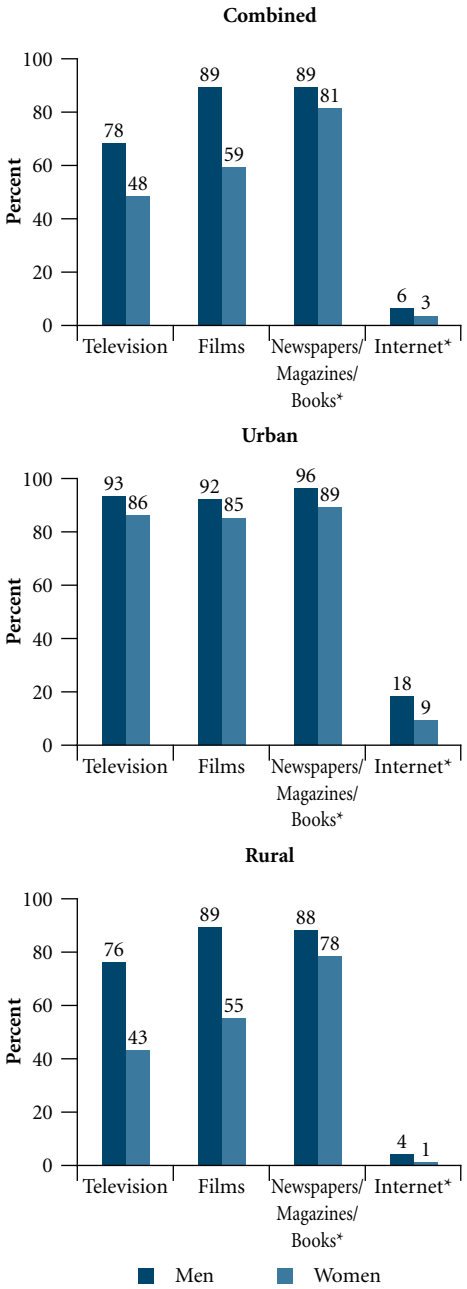
Media may play an important role in shaping the attitudes and behaviours of youth. Youth gain access to new information through a variety of sources, including print and visual media and, increasingly, the internet. Many are also exposed to pornography through these channels. The Youth Study probed young people's exposure to various media sources, the extent of their exposure to pornographic materials by way of books/magazines, films and the internet, and their perceptions about the influence of television and films on youth behaviours.

5.1 Mass media exposure

The survey asked a number of questions regarding youth exposure to mass media. These included whether and how frequently young people read newspapers, magazines or books, watched films, watched television programmes other than movies, and accessed the internet. Questions regarding exposure to print media and the internet were asked only of those who had attained at least five years of education, as this was considered a prerequisite for basic literacy and, thus, understanding such materials. Youth were asked to rate the frequency of their exposure to each medium according to the categories "never," "sometimes" and "often". If any young person did not respond in this format but rather, in terms of days per week, three or more exposures per week were classified as "often" and less frequent exposure as "sometimes".

Findings are presented in Table 5.1 and Figure 5.1. They suggest that youth were exposed to a variety of media, but that typically, more young men than women reported media exposure. The largest proportion of youth was exposed to print materials (newspapers, magazines or books)—89% of young men and 81% of young women who had completed five or more years of education. Exposure to television was reported by 78% of all young men and 48% of all young women. A somewhat larger proportion of young men (89%) and young women (59%) watched films either on CD/DVD or at a theatre or video parlour. Few youth with five or more years of education accessed the internet: 6% of young men and 3% of young women.

Figure 5.1: Percentage of youth exposed to television, films, print media and the internet, Bihar, 2007



*Note: *Question asked only of respondents who had completed five or more years of education.*

Table 5.1: Mass media exposure

Percent distribution of youth exposed to various mass media by frequency of exposure, according to residence, Bihar, 2007

Exposure indicators (%)	M 15–24	W 15–24	MM 15–29	MW 15–24	UM 15–24	UW 15–24
Combined						
Frequency of watching television						
Never	21.7	52.0	26.4	57.9	19.9	43.5
Sometimes	68.8	38.8	68.0	36.5	68.5	43.1
Often	9.5	9.1	5.7	5.6	11.6	13.4
Frequency of watching films						
Never	10.5	41.4	10.0	46.0	10.6	34.4
Sometimes	87.3	57.0	87.8	53.0	86.9	63.2
Often	2.0	1.6	1.8	1.0	2.5	2.4
Number of respondents	**1,942**	**5,529**	**1,115**	**2,341**	**1,492**	**3,188**
Frequency of reading newspapers/ magazines/books[1]						
Never	10.6	18.8	10.9	24.2	10.3	14.6
Sometimes	55.0	58.1	66.7	65.1	51.8	52.3
Often	34.0	22.6	22.1	10.1	37.4	32.6
Frequency of accessing the internet[1]						
Never	93.5	96.9	96.3	98.5	92.2	96.1
Sometimes	5.2	2.2	2.6	0.9	6.3	2.8
Often	0.8	0.3	0.8	0.0	1.0	0.4
Number with 5 or more years of education	**1,498**	**3,059**	**720**	**935**	**1,212**	**2,124**
Urban						
Frequency of watching television						
Never	7.1	14.0	7.7	21.1	6.9	8.9
Sometimes	60.4	43.2	67.0	44.4	58.8	42.5
Often	32.5	42.8	25.3	34.5	34.3	48.6
Frequency of watching films						
Never	7.9	15.2	6.5	18.3	8.2	13.0
Sometimes	86.7	78.3	90.2	76.8	86.5	79.6
Often	5.4	6.4	3.3	4.9	5.3	7.5
Number of respondents	**1,039**	**2,581**	**547**	**1,136**	**833**	**1,445**
Frequency of reading newspapers/ magazines/books[1]						
Never	4.3	10.5	6.0	19.5	3.9	6.4
Sometimes	42.7	52.2	53.7	63.6	40.6	46.7
Often	53.0	36.8	40.3	16.9	55.6	46.4
Frequency of accessing the internet[1]						
Never	82.3	90.4	91.0	96.2	80.7	87.7
Sometimes	14.3	7.8	7.5	3.8	15.5	9.9
Often	3.5	1.3	1.5	0.0	3.9	2.0
Number with 5 or more years of education	**845**	**1,801**	**394**	**617**	**701**	**1,184**

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Table 5.1: (Cont'd)

Exposure indicators (%)	M 15–24	W 15–24	MM 15–29	MW 15–24	UM 15–24	UW 15–24
Rural						
Frequency of watching television						
Never	24.2	57.0	28.0	60.3	22.4	49.8
Sometimes	70.1	38.3	68.1	36.0	70.4	43.2
Often	5.7	4.7	3.9	3.7	7.2	6.9
Frequency of watching films						
Never	10.9	44.8	10.3	47.8	11.1	38.3
Sometimes	87.4	54.3	87.6	51.5	87.0	60.2
Often	1.5	1.0	1.7	0.7	1.9	1.4
Number of respondents	**903**	**2,948**	**568**	**1,205**	**659**	**1,743**
Frequency of reading newspapers/ magazines/books[1]						
Never	11.8	20.9	11.5	24.9	11.7	16.8
Sometimes	57.3	59.6	68.2	65.2	54.1	53.8
Often	30.4	18.8	20.0	9.3	33.6	28.7
Frequency of accessing the internet[1]						
Never	95.7	98.6	96.9	98.6	94.6	98.4
Sometimes	3.5	0.7	2.1	0.7	4.4	0.9
Often	0.3	0.0	0.7	0.0	0.4	0.0
Number with 5 or more years of education	**653**	**1,258**	**326**	**318**	**511**	**940**

Note: All Ns are unweighted. Column totals may not equal 100% due to missing cases or "don't know" responses. [1]Question asked only of respondents who had completed five or more years of education.

Differences by marital status varied between young men and young women. Among young men, more unmarried than married youth reported exposure to television; however, differences were muted with respect to exposure to other media. Among young women, the unmarried were consistently more likely to be exposed to each medium than the married and this was apparent, by and large, in both rural and urban areas. Frequency of media exposure also varied. For example, findings show that more unmarried than married youth reported frequent exposure to television and print media, irrespective of rural-urban residence. Differences by rural-urban residence were also evident, with urban youth—particularly young women—more likely than rural youth to be exposed to the media. Notably, some 9% of young women and 18% of young men in urban settings accessed the internet, compared to less than 1% and 4%, respectively, of rural youth.

5.2 Exposure to pornographic materials

Youth were asked whether they were exposed to pornographic materials by way of films, books and magazines, and the internet (for those who accessed the internet). Table 5.2 reports that 26% of young men had watched "blue" or pornographic films, compared to 4% of young women. More married than unmarried youth were exposed to pornographic films (38% versus 23% among young men and 6% versus 1% among young women). Differences by rural-urban residence were wide among young men, with more urban youth reporting exposure to pornographic films than rural youth, irrespective of marital status: 25% of rural young men compared to 35% of their urban counterparts had ever watched a pornographic film. Among young women, the differences were apparent among the married (5% and 13%, respectively, of rural and urban respondents), but muted among the unmarried (1–2%).

Table 5.2: Exposure to pornographic materials

Percentage of youth exposed to different pornographic materials, according to residence, Bihar, 2007

Exposure indicators (%)	M 15–24	W 15–24	MM 15–29	MW 15–24	UM 15–24	UW 15–24
Combined						
Ever watched a "blue"/pornographic film	26.0	4.1	37.5	5.6	23.0	0.9
Number of respondents	**1,942**	**5,529**	**1,115**	**2,341**	**1,492**	**3,188**
Frequency of watching "blue"/pornographic films						
Rarely	56.8	70.2	56.7	69.7	55.7	(79.3)
Sometimes	41.1	29.8	41.4	30.3	42.3	(20.7)
Often	1.6	0.0	0.5	0.0	1.7	(0.0)
Person accompanying when watching "blue"/ pornographic films						
Alone	8.4	10.3	11.2	6.0	7.9	(55.2)
Peer(s)	89.0	12.5	84.7	11.3	89.2	(34.5)
Spouse	NA	NA	3.1	77.4	NA	NA
Other(s)	1.8	4.0	1.0	3.8	2.9	(10.3)
Ever forced by anyone to watch "blue"/ pornographic films	21.5	34.7	20.5	37.1	21.6	(10.3)
Number who ever watched "blue"/ pornographic films	**597**	**249**	**491**	**213**	**412**	**36**
Ever read/looked at pornographic books/magazines	20.9	5.7	25.7	6.3	19.3	4.3
Number of respondents	**1,942**	**5,529**	**1,115**	**2,341**	**1,492**	**3,188**
Frequency of reading/looking at pornographic books/ magazines						
Rarely	63.8	48.7	61.9	57.7	68.2	27.1
Sometimes	35.2	47.5	37.4	40.9	31.1	62.1
Often	0.5	2.8	0.0	0.0	0.7	9.3
Number who ever read/looked at pornographic books/magazines	**457**	**345**	**328**	**177**	**334**	**168**
Ever accessed pornographic materials on the internet	32.6	10.9	(19.0)	*	30.6	12.9
Number who ever accessed the internet	**166**	**167**	**43**	**22**	**156**	**145**
Urban						
Ever watched a "blue"/pornographic film	35.1	6.4	51.6	13.4	33.1	1.6
Number of respondents	**1,039**	**2,581**	**547**	**1,136**	**833**	**1,445**
Frequency of watching "blue"/pornographic films						
Rarely	54.1	61.0	55.3	63.2	54.4	*
Sometimes	42.9	39.0	44.7	36.8	43.0	*
Often	2.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.3	*
Person accompanying when watching "blue"/ pornographic films						
Alone	9.2	14.6	19.1	5.6	8.6	*
Peer(s)	88.8	7.3	76.6	0.0	90.1	*
Spouse	NA	NA	4.3	94.4	NA	NA
Other(s)	1.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.2	*
Ever forced by anyone to watch "blue"/ pornographic films	19.4	29.3	14.6	31.6	18.8	*
Number who ever watched "blue"/ pornographic films	**376**	**174**	**284**	**152**	**273**	**22**

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Table 5.2: (Cont'd)

Exposure indicators (%)	M 15–24	W 15–24	MM 15–29	MW 15–24	UM 15–24	UW 15–24
Urban						
Ever read/looked at pornographic books/magazines	26.1	7.8	33.7	9.2	25.7	7.1
Number of respondents	**1,039**	**2,581**	**547**	**1,136**	**833**	**1,445**
Frequency of reading/looking at pornographic books/ magazines						
Rarely	71.2	26.0	64.5	33.3	73.0	22.9
Sometimes	28.8	70.0	35.5	66.7	27.0	71.4
Often	0.0	4.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	5.7
Number who ever read/looked at pornographic books/magazines	**274**	**204**	**182**	**103**	**214**	**101**
Ever accessed pornographic materials on the internet	50.0	7.3	(50.0)	*	50.0	4.2
Number who ever accessed the internet	**142**	**157**	**34**	**20**	**133**	**137**
Rural						
Ever watched a "blue"/pornographic film	24.5	3.7	36.3	5.1	21.0	0.8
Number of respondents	**903**	**2,498**	**568**	**1,205**	**659**	**1,743**
Frequency of watching "blue"/pornographic films						
Rarely	57.4	72.3	56.9	71.7	56.1	*
Sometimes	40.7	27.7	41.0	28.3	42.4	*
Often	1.5	0.0	0.5	0.0	1.5	*
Person accompanying when watching "blue"/ pornographic films						
Alone	8.2	9.3	10.0	6.2	7.6	*
Peer(s)	88.9	14.2	85.9	12.4	88.9	*
Spouse	NA	NA	3.0	76.1	NA	NA
Other(s)	2.2	4.4	1.1	3.5	3.4	*
Ever forced by anyone to watch "blue"/ pornographic films	22.0	36.1	21.4	38.1	22.1	*
Number who ever watched "blue"/ pornographic films	**221**	**75**	**207**	**61**	**139**	**14**
Ever read/looked at pornographic books/magazines	20.0	5.4	25.0	6.1	18.1	3.9
Number of respondents	**903**	**2,948**	**568**	**1,205**	**659**	**1,743**
Frequency of reading/looking at pornographic books/ magazines						
Rarely	62.2	52.8	61.8	59.9	66.8	28.6
Sometimes	36.6	43.4	37.5	38.7	32.3	59.0
Often	0.6	2.6	0.0	0.0	0.9	10.5
Number who ever read/looked at pornographic books/ magazines	**183**	**141**	**146**	**74**	**120**	**67**
Ever accessed pornographic materials on the internet	*	*	*	*	*	*
Number who ever accessed the internet	**24**	**10**	**9**	**2**	**23**	**8**

*Note: All Ns are unweighted. Column totals may not equal 100% due to missing cases or "don't know" responses. ( ) Based on 25–49 unweighted cases. *Percentage not shown, based on fewer than 25 unweighted cases. NA: Not applicable.*

Among youth who had ever watched a pornographic film, 43% of young men and 30% of young women reported having viewed such films sometimes or frequently (see Table 5.2). Because almost no unmarried young women had ever watched a pornographic film, we restrict the remaining discussion to young men and married young women. Differences by marital status and residence were negligible among young men; among marred young women, those in urban settings were more likely than those in rural areas, to have viewed pornographic films sometimes or often. Most young men had watched pornographic films together with friends. Among young women, three-quarters of the married reported that they had watched such films together with their husbands. One in five young men (22%) and over one in three married young women (37%) reported that they had been pressured or forced, at least once, to do so.

Exposure to pornographic books and magazines was reported by 21% of young men and 6% of young women. Married young men were somewhat more likely than the unmarried to report exposure to pornographic books and magazines, but no such differences were evident among young women. Somewhat more urban youth, particularly young men, reported exposure to pornographic books and magazines, compared to rural youth. Over one-third of all young men and one-half of young women who reported reading or looking at pornographic books or magazines did so sometimes or often. Marital status differences suggest that while married young men were somewhat more likely than the unmarried to report as such (37% and 32% of married and unmarried young men, respectively), the reverse was true for young women (41% and 71% of married and unmarried young women, respectively). Finally, more rural than urban young men reported frequent exposure; among young women, particularly the married, a reverse pattern was evident.

Of those exposed to the internet, one-third of young men (33%) and one-tenth of young women (11%) had accessed pornographic materials on the internet.

5.3 Youth perceptions about the influence of television and films on youth behaviours

The survey also questioned youth about their perceptions of the influence of television and films on youth behaviours. Specifically, they were asked whether they believed that television and films influenced the way in which their friends dressed, whether violence on television and in films could make youth aggressive and whether they had ever felt like having sex after watching certain films. Table 5.3 suggests that about three-fifths of young men and half of young women believed that television and films influenced the way their friends dressed. About three-fifths of young men and women believed that violence on television and in films could make youth aggressive. One-quarter of young men and one-tenth of young women reported that watching certain films had made them desire sex. By and large, gender differences were narrow except that more young men than women felt that television and films influenced their friends' or their own behaviours.

Differences in reported perceptions by marital status suggest that by and large more unmarried than married youth believed that television and films influenced the way youth dress and more unmarried than married young women believed that television and films influenced youth aggressiveness. Conversely, more married than unmarried youth reported that watching certain films had made them desire sex. Rural-urban differences were mild among young men, with those in urban areas mildly more likely to report that television and films influenced youth dress and their own desire for sex. Differences were wider among young women with regard to media influence on their friends' behaviours.

Table 5.3: Perceptions about the influence of television and films on youth behaviours

Percentage of youth reporting perceptions regarding the influence of television and films on youth behaviours, according to residence, Bihar, 2007

Perceptions about the influence of television and films (%)	M 15–24	W 15–24	MM 15–29	MW 15–24	UM 15–24	UW 15–24
Combined						
TV/films influence the way friends dress	57.5	50.4	46.6	45.0	58.9	59.7
Violence on TV and in films can make youth aggressive	57.9	57.4	58.8	54.1	57.5	62.8
Certain films make respondent want to have sex	24.0	9.5	35.0	12.8	20.8	3.3
Number of respondents	**1,942**	**5,529**	**1,115**	**2,341**	**1,492**	**3,188**
Urban						
TV/films influence the way friends dress	55.0	65.8	47.8	62.0	55.7	68.6
Violence on TV and in films can make youth aggressive	63.1	72.6	67.0	68.5	62.9	75.6
Certain films make respondent want to have sex	28.9	9.9	42.4	17.6	26.9	4.3
Number of respondents	**1,039**	**2,581**	**547**	**1,136**	**833**	**1,445**
Rural						
TV/films influence the way friends dress	57.9	48.4	46.6	43.9	59.5	58.1
Violence on TV and in films can make youth aggressive	57.1	55.5	58.2	53.1	56.4	60.4
Certain films make respondent want to have sex	23.2	9.5	34.2	12.5	19.6	3.1
Number of respondents	**903**	**2,948**	**568**	**1,205**	**659**	**1,743**

Note: All Ns are unweighted.

5.4 Summary

Findings suggest that large proportions of all youth in Bihar were exposed to the media, typically newspapers, magazines or books (89% of young men and 81% of young women with five or more years of education), films (89% of all young men and 59% of all young women) and television (78% of all young men and 48% of all young women). Exposure to the internet was reported by far fewer (6% of young men and 3% of young women with five or more years of education). Gender differences were apparent, with young men typically more likely to be exposed to each medium than young women.

Findings also suggest that one in four young men and 4% of young women watched pornographic films, and of these, about two-fifths reported having viewed such films sometimes or frequently. One in five young men and 6% of young women accessed pornographic books and magazines, and of these, one-third of young men and half of young women reported that they accessed these materials sometimes or frequently. Of those exposed to the internet, one in three young men and one in ten young women had accessed pornographic materials on the internet. Finally, between half and three-fifths of young men and women acknowledged the influence that media have on youth behaviours.

Chapter 6

Growing up

This chapter focuses on such experiences as puberty as well as youth interaction with parents and peers while growing up. Globally, studies have suggested a declining age at puberty for young men and women and stress that this, along with rising ages at marriage, provides a longer window in which young people can make same- and opposite-sex friends (National Research Council and Institute of Medicine, 2005). Several studies have highlighted the importance of close parental interaction for healthy development of young people (Laird et al., 2003; Marta, 1997; Sroufe, 1991). Others note that young people's interaction with parents is particularly limited when it comes to discussion of sensitive issues, for example, girl-boy relations or sexual and reproductive matters (Alexander et al., 2006a; 2006b; Lambert and Wood, 2005; Mehra, Savithri and Coutinho, 2002). In addition, a few studies have shown that the peer group is, for many youth, a central source of both information and support, and at the same time, a source of misinformation and pressure to adopt risky behaviours (Bhuiya et al., 2003; Sachdev, 1998; Ul Haque and Faizunnisa, 2003).

The Youth Study included several questions relating to each of these issues. This chapter begins by describing the ages at which young people experienced signs of puberty. It then explores aspects of their family life and interaction with parents on various matters of importance to youth. It also addresses peer networks and interaction, specifically, the size of the same- and opposite-sex peer network and peer activities in which respondents engaged. Finally, the chapter discusses young people's access to support networks for discussing personal matters.

6.1 Puberty

In order to examine ages at which puberty occurs among young men and women, the Youth Study included questions on age at menarche for young women and age at which voice change and growth of pubic hair were noticed for young men. Table 6.1a shows that mean age at menarche was 13.7 years for young women. Urban young women tended to experience menarche earlier than rural young women; for example, 18% of young women in urban areas compared to 5% of those in rural areas, attained menarche at or below age 12.

Voice change and appearance of pubic hair for young men occurred somewhat later than did menarche for young women. Table 6.1b shows that the average ages at which young men reported voice change and growth of pubic hair were 14.1 and 14.5 years, respectively. Rural-urban differences in the mean ages at which these changes occurred did not vary much.

6.2 Family life and interaction with parents

The Youth Study explored a variety of issues that capture the nature of family life, and youth interaction with parents in particular. Married respondents were specifically asked to recall the period before marriage.

Table 6.1a: Age at puberty among young women

Percent distribution of young women aged 15–24 by age at puberty, according to residence, Bihar, 2007

Puberty indicators (%)	Combined	Urban	Rural
Age at menarche (years)			
Below 12	0.7	2.2	0.4
12	5.5	15.5	4.2
13	28.3	23.1	29.0
14	17.6	24.8	16.7
15 and above	15.4	19.9	14.8
Not yet menstruated	1.6	0.9	1.7
Mean age at menarche (years)[1]	13.7	13.6	13.7
Number of respondents	**5,529**	**2,581**	**2,948**

Note: All Ns are unweighted. Column totals may not equal 100% due to missing cases or "don't know" responses. [1]Excludes those who had not menstruated at the time of interview.

Table 6.1b: Age at puberty among young men

Percent distribution of young men aged 15–24 by age at puberty, according to residence, Bihar, 2007

Puberty indicators (%)	Combined	Urban	Rural
Age at which voice change noticed (years)			
Below 14	17.5	14.0	18.0
14	14.1	15.4	13.8
15	10.6	13.6	10.1
16	6.0	8.6	5.5
17 and above	4.1	6.1	3.7
No voice change yet	3.9	3.9	3.9
Did not notice/don't remember	43.9	38.4	44.9
Mean age at voice change (years)[1]	14.1	14.5	14.1
Age at which pubic hair noticed (years)			
Below 14	14.6	13.3	14.8
14	25.6	28.7	25.1
15	22.8	24.7	22.5
16	10.9	12.5	10.6
17 and above	5.5	5.0	5.6
No pubic hair yet	3.8	1.8	4.2
Mean age at which pubic hair noticed[1]	14.5	14.6	14.5
Number of respondents	**1,942**	**1,039**	**903**

Note: All Ns are unweighted. Column totals may not equal 100% due to missing cases or "don't know" responses. [1]Excludes those who had not noticed voice change/appearance of pubic hair at the time of interview or did not remember age at the time of voice change/appearance of pubic hair.

6.2.1 Socialisation experiences

Table 6.2 presents findings on the socialisation experiences of youth during their teenage years as compared with siblings, or cousins of the opposite sex if the respondent did not have an opposite-sex sibling. Wide gender differences were evident in relation to respondents' freedom to go out; for example, three-fifths (59%) of young men reported that they had more freedom to go out than their sisters or female cousins did; a

considerably larger proportion—almost four-fifths—of young women agreed that they had less freedom to go out than their brothers or male cousins. With respect to housework expectations, it appears that young men and women perceived their role in housework somewhat differently. Just one-third of young men reported that they were expected to do less housework than their sisters or female cousins, suggesting that large proportions of households did not discriminate between their sons and daughters in terms of expectations regarding housework. Young women's responses, however, suggest wide gender differences; about three-quarters (71%) of young women reported that they were expected to do more housework than their brothers or male cousins.

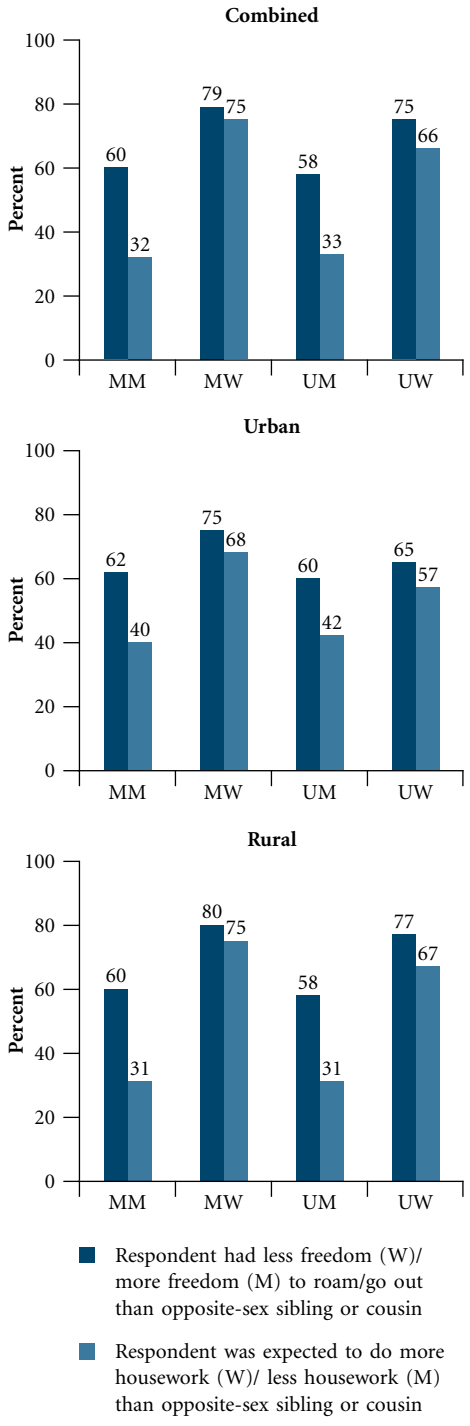
Table 6.2: Socialisation experiences

Percent distribution of youth by degree of mobility and housework responsibilities relative to an opposite-sex sibling/cousin, according to residence, Bihar, 2007

Socialisation experiences (%)	M 15–24	W 15–24	MM 15–29	MW 15–24	UM 15–24	UW 15–24
Combined						
Respondent had less freedom (W)/more freedom (M) to roam/go out than opposite-sex sibling or cousin						
Yes	59.1	77.8	60.4	79.4	58.3	75.4
No	36.3	21.7	33.1	20.0	37.6	24.3
Respondent was expected to do more housework (W)/ less housework (M) than opposite-sex sibling or cousin						
Yes	31.5	71.2	31.9	74.5	32.5	65.5
No	60.6	25.8	60.0	21.7	59.6	32.7
Number of respondents	**1,942**	**5,529**	**1,115**	**2,341**	**1,492**	**3,188**
Urban						
Respondent had less freedom (W)/ more freedom (M) to roam/go out than opposite-sex sibling or cousin						
Yes	59.9	69.2	62.4	74.6	60.2	65.4
No	38.4	30.6	35.5	25.4	38.1	34.4
Respondent was expected to do more housework (W)/ less housework (M) than opposite-sex sibling or cousin						
Yes	41.9	61.6	40.2	67.6	42.2	57.1
No	54.5	37.7	55.4	31.0	54.1	42.7
Number of respondents	**1,039**	**2,581**	**547**	**1,136**	**833**	**1,445**
Rural						
Respondent had less freedom (W)/ more freedom (M) to roam/go out than opposite-sex sibling or cousin						
Yes	58.9	78.9	60.2	79.7	57.9	77.2
No	35.9	20.5	32.9	19.6	37.5	22.4
Respondent was expected to do more housework (W)/ less housework (M) than opposite-sex sibling or cousin						
Yes	29.8	72.4	31.1	74.9	30.6	67.1
No	61.6	24.2	60.4	21.1	60.7	30.8
Number of respondents	**903**	**2,948**	**568**	**1,205**	**659**	**1,743**

Note: All Ns are unweighted. Column totals may not equal 100% due to "unsure" responses. For married respondents, questions referred to the period prior to marriage.

Figure 6.1: Percentage of youth reporting gendered socialisation experiences relative to an opposite-sex sibling/cousin, according to residence, Bihar, 2007



Note: For married respondents, questions referred to the period prior to marriage.

Differences by marital status were muted among young men. Among young women, even though larger proportions of both married and unmarried women reported gender unequal socialisation experiences, the unmarried, particularly in urban areas, were somewhat less likely to report so. Differences by rural-urban residence varied across young men and women. Among young men, while no differences were apparent in relation to freedom to go out, more urban than rural young men reported that they were expected to do less housework than their sisters or female cousins (42% and 30% respectively). Among young women, more rural than urban respondents reported gender unequal socialisation experiences on both matters (see Figure 6.1). Such findings may be explained by the likelihood that rural respondents and those who married early belonged to families adhering more closely to traditional gender norms than the families of other young women.

Parental attitudes towards youth friendships and social activities were probed by asking young men and women about whether their mothers and fathers, respectively, would disapprove if they engaged in a series of activities, ranging from bringing a same-sex friend to their home to having a love marriage. Married youth were asked to respond according to their experience prior to marriage. Findings, presented in Table 6.3, suggest considerable variation in youth perceptions by activity. What is clearly noticeable is that parents were most likely to be perceived to disapprove of love marriages for their children. This was reported by 93–94% of young men and 98–99% of young women. Also noticeable was that youth perceived parents to be far more likely to disapprove of activities conducted with members of the opposite sex than those conducted with same-sex individuals (see Figure 6.2). For example, just 9–10% of young men and 2% of young women reported that their mother or father would be angry if they brought same-sex friends to their home. In contrast, 74–80% of fathers and mothers of young men and 94–97% of fathers and mothers of young women were perceived to disapprove of activities in which youth may have engaged with an opposite sex friend, such as, for example, bringing an opposite-sex friend to their home, talking to a person of the opposite sex who did not belong to the family and going to a mela or film with someone of the opposite sex.

Also evident from Table 6.3 is that even though interactions with same-sex friends were less likely to be met with disapproval, 46–48% of young men and 28–37% of young women reported expecting parental disapproval if they went out with same-sex friends to a *mela* or film. It is notable, moreover, that more young men than women perceived parental disapproval if

Table 6.3: Perceptions of parental reactions to selected activities

Percentage of youth who perceived that their parents would disapprove of them engaging in selected activities, according to residence, Bihar, 2007

Perceptions of parental reactions (%)	M 15–24	W 15–24	MM 15–29	MW 15–24	UM 15–24	UW 15–24
	Father					
Combined						
Father would disapprove if respondent:						
Brought same-sex friends home	10.3	2.3	11.8	2.8	10.1	1.4
Brought opposite-sex friends home	79.6	97.1	82.1	98.0	77.9	95.8
Talked to a person of the opposite sex from outside the home	73.7	95.8	76.8	97.0	72.2	94.3
Went to a *mela*/film with same-sex friends	46.3	37.4	45.7	37.8	48.3	36.9
Went to a *mela*/film with opposite-sex friends	75.0	96.2	74.5	96.9	74.8	95.4
Joined a club or *mandal*	25.6	49.5	25.9	50.7	25.9	47.5
Had a love marriage	93.2	98.5	93.0	98.9	92.9	98.2
Found a job	NA	14.6	NA	16.9	NA	10.8
Number of respondents[1]	**1,704**	**4,973**	**878**	**2,012**	**1,332**	**2,961**
Urban						
Father would disapprove if respondent:						
Brought same-sex friends home	10.4	1.9	11.3	1.7	10.3	2.0
Brought opposite-sex friends home	70.8	90.3	76.1	95.1	69.5	86.9
Talked to a person of the opposite sex from outside the home	63.5	88.5	65.7	92.6	62.9	85.4
Went to a *mela*/film with same-sex friends	42.5	36.9	42.3	36.9	43.2	36.9
Went to a *mela*/film with opposite-sex friends	67.6	91.9	69.0	93.4	68.1	90.5
Joined a club or *mandal*	30.8	45.7	26.8	45.9	31.0	45.6
Had a love marriage	89.2	96.1	90.1	96.7	88.3	95.4
Found a job	NA	12.7	NA	18.2	NA	8.6
Number of respondents[1]	**890**	**2,298**	**421**	**973**	**728**	**1,325**
Rural						
Father would disapprove if respondent:						
Brought same-sex friends home	10.2	2.4	11.9	2.9	10.1	1.3
Brought opposite-sex friends home	81.0	97.9	82.6	98.2	79.4	97.4
Talked to a person of the opposite sex from outside the home	75.2	96.8	77.9	97.3	74.0	95.8
Went to a *mela*/film with same-sex friends	46.9	37.5	46.1	37.9	49.3	36.9
Went to a *mela*/film with opposite-sex friends	76.1	96.8	75.0	97.0	76.0	96.2
Joined a club or *mandal*	24.8	49.9	25.8	51.0	25.0	47.9
Had a love marriage	93.8	98.8	93.2	98.9	93.7	98.7
Found a job	NA	14.9	NA	16.8	NA	11.2
Number of respondents[1]	**814**	**2,675**	**457**	**1,039**	**604**	**1,636**

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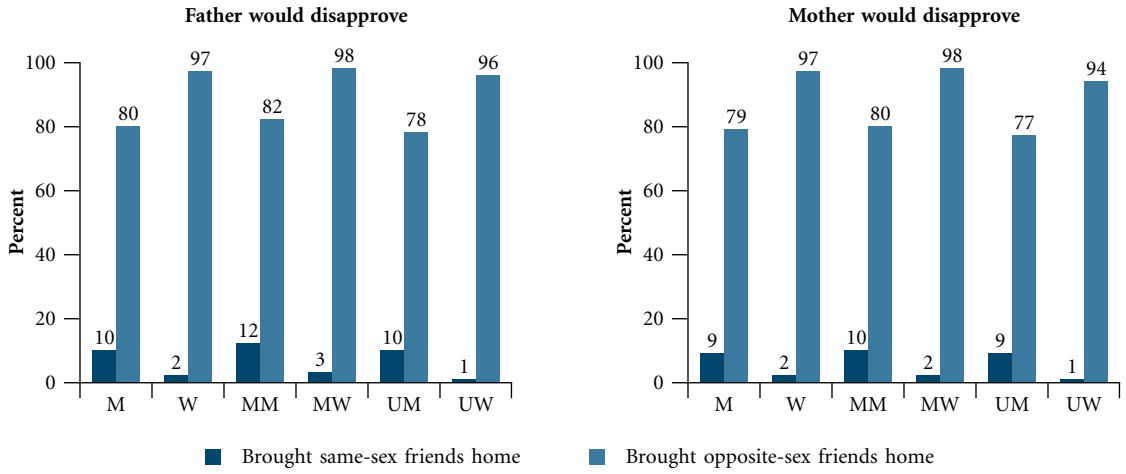
Table 6.3: (Cont'd)

Perceptions of parental reactions (%)	M 15–24	W 15–24	MM 15–29	MW 15–24	UM 15–24	UW 15–24
	Mother					
Combined						
Mother would disapprove if respondent:						
Brought same-sex friends home	9.4	1.5	9.7	1.6	8.9	1.3
Brought opposite-sex friends home	78.7	96.6	79.9	98.3	76.8	94.1
Talked to a person of the opposite sex from outside the home	73.7	94.2	75.6	95.5	72.1	92.6
Went to a *mela*/film with same-sex friends	47.6	28.0	46.0	26.8	49.5	29.9
Went to a *mela*/film with opposite-sex friends	75.5	94.1	74.1	94.7	75.8	93.3
Joined a club or *mandal*	23.8	43.1	23.5	44.0	24.5	41.7
Had a love marriage	93.9	98.0	93.5	98.3	93.6	97.5
Found a job	NA	10.5	NA	12.1	NA	7.7
Number of respondents[1]	**1,819**	**5,172**	**968**	**2,121**	**1,417**	**3,051**
Urban						
Mother would disapprove if respondent:						
Brought same-sex friends home	8.8	1.3	9.9	1.6	8.3	1.5
Brought opposite-sex friends home	70.5	87.7	76.5	94.6	69.3	82.8
Talked to a person of the opposite sex from outside the home	62.5	84.7	66.3	90.6	61.7	80.9
Went to a *mela*/film with same-sex friends	41.6	31.4	40.7	29.5	42.2	33.1
Went to a *mela*/film with opposite-sex friends	69.0	89.6	71.3	93.8	68.8	86.7
Joined a club or *mandal*	29.1	41.2	25.9	43.4	29.4	39.6
Had a love marriage	88.9	95.5	91.4	96.9	88.7	94.3
Found a job	NA	9.8	NA	14.0	NA	6.8
Number of respondents[1]	**971**	**2,409**	**482**	**1,031**	**787**	**1,378**
Rural						
Mother would disapprove if respondent:						
Brought same-sex friends home	9.5	1.5	9.6	1.6	9.0	1.3
Brought opposite-sex friends home	80.0	97.7	80.2	98.5	78.2	96.1
Talked to a person of the opposite sex from outside the home	75.6	95.5	76.5	95.9	74.1	94.7
Went to a *mela*/film with same-sex friends	48.5	27.6	46.4	26.7	50.9	29.3
Went to a *mela*/film with opposite-sex friends	76.6	94.7	74.5	94.8	77.2	94.5
Joined a club or *mandal*	23.0	43.4	23.3	44.1	23.6	42.1
Had a love marriage	94.7	98.3	93.7	98.4	94.6	98.2
Found a job	NA	10.6	NA	12.0	NA	7.8
Number of respondents[1]	**848**	**2,763**	**486**	**1,090**	**630**	**1,673**

Note: All Ns are unweighted. NA: Not applicable. For married respondents, questions referred to the period prior to marriage.
[1]Includes only those respondents reporting that their father or mother, respectively, was alive at the time of interview.

Figure 6.2: Percentage of youth reporting that their father and mother, respectively, would disapprove if they brought same- and opposite-sex friends home, according to residence, Bihar, 2007



Note: For married respondents, questions referred to the period prior to marriage. Percentages were calculated only of those respondents reporting that their father or mother, respectively, was alive at the time of interview.

they brought same-sex friends home or went on outings with them. Fewer parents were perceived however to disapprove of their sons joining a club or *mandal* than their daughters:, 24–26% of young men and 43–50% of young women reported expecting parental disapproval if they joined a club or *mandal*. By and large, finally, differences in perceived reactions of fathers versus mothers were negligible, although somewhat larger proportions of young women perceived disapproval of selected activities from their fathers than their mothers. For instance, 37% and 28% of young women reported expecting disapproval from their fathers and mothers, respectively, if they went on outings with their same-sex friends, and 50% and 43% reported disapproval from their fathers and mothers, respectively, if they joined a club.

Differences by marital status were by and large narrow, with few exceptions. Somewhat more married young women, irrespective of residence, reported parental disapproval if they found a job, compared to their unmarried counterparts. In addition in urban areas, married young people, particularly women, were somewhat more likely to perceive parental disapproval of interactions with opposite-sex individuals than unmarried youth.

In contrast, rural-urban differences were more consistently observed with urban youth less likely than rural youth to perceive parental disapproval of most activities. With regard to bringing an opposite-sex friend to their home, for example, 80–81% and 98% of rural young men and women, respectively, perceived that their parents would disapprove, compared to 71% and 88–90% of urban young men and women, respectively.

Youth were also asked about the extent to which family life was characterised by quarrels and domestic violence between parents, and whether they had witnessed their father beating their mother or vice versa. Findings are reported in Table 6.4. They suggest that about three-fifths of young men and over two-thirds of young women with both parents living acknowledged that they had ever witnessed quarrels between their parents. One percent reported that they had witnessed their mother beating their father. One in five young men and women reported ever witnessing their father beating their mother. Larger proportions of married youth reported witnessing their father beating their mother (28% compared to 17% of married and unmarried young men, respectively; 22% and 16% of married and unmarried young women, respectively).

Likewise, rural youth were more likely than urban youth to report having witnessed their father beating their mother: 21% of young men and 20% of young women in rural areas had witnessed their father beating their mother, compared to 13% and 15% of young men and women, respectively, in urban areas.

Youth were also asked whether one or both parents had ever beaten them since the age of 12. Findings, shown in Table 6.4, suggest that over half of young men (55%) and 11% of young women with at least one parent alive at the time of the survey reported being beaten by a parent at any time since the age of 12. Differences by marital status and rural-urban residence were negligible.

Table 6.4: Experience of domestic violence

Percentage of youth reporting violence between parents and being beaten by parents, according to residence, Bihar, 2007

Experiences of domestic violence (%)	M 15–24	W 15–24	MM 15–29	MW 15–24	UM 15–24	UW 15–24
Combined						
Parents ever fought	57.3	69.7	62.9	73.5	56.6	63.6
Mother ever beat father	1.0	0.9	1.8	1.1	1.0	0.4
Father ever beat mother	19.8	19.6	28.1	22.0	17.4	15.8
Number with both parents alive	**1,608**	**4,689**	**779**	**1,847**	**1,270**	**2,842**
Respondent beaten by father and/or mother since age 12	55.4	11.4	57.0	10.0	55.4	13.7
Number with at least one parent alive	**1,915**	**5,456**	**1,067**	**2,286**	**1,479**	**3,170**
Urban						
Parents ever fought	52.9	65.7	65.6	67.9	50.7	64.4
Mother ever beat father	1.3	0.6	1.6	0.9	1.5	0.5
Father ever beat mother	13.3	15.4	19.0	18.9	12.4	13.0
Number with both parents alive	**841**	**2,160**	**384**	**892**	**690**	**1,268**
Respondent beaten by father and/or mother since age 12	55.3	14.2	60.2	10.1	55.0	17.1
Number with at least one parent alive	**1,020**	**2,547**	**519**	**1,112**	**825**	**1,435**
Rural						
Parents ever fought	58.0	70.2	62.7	73.8	57.7	63.4
Mother ever beat father	0.9	0.9	1.8	1.1	0.9	0.4
Father ever beat mother	20.9	20.2	28.9	22.2	18.3	16.3
Number with both parents alive	**767**	**2,529**	**395**	**955**	**580**	**1,574**
Respondent beaten by father and/or mother since age 12	55.4	11.0	56.7	10.0	55.5	13.1
Number with at least one parent alive	**895**	**2,909**	**548**	**1,174**	**654**	**1,735**

Note: All Ns are unweighted. Domestic violence refers exclusively to physical violence.

6.2.2 Communication with parents

Information regarding communication with parents on issues relevant to youth—such as school performance, friendships, romantic relationships, being teased or bullied, physical maturation, reproductive processes and contraception—was elicited from all respondents reporting that their mothers or fathers were alive at the time of the interview. Findings, presented in Table 6.5 and Figures 6.3a-b, reveal that communication on any topic was far from universal. In general, among all groups, sensitive topics—such as romantic relationships, reproduction and contraception and adolescent body changes among young men—were rarely discussed with either parent.

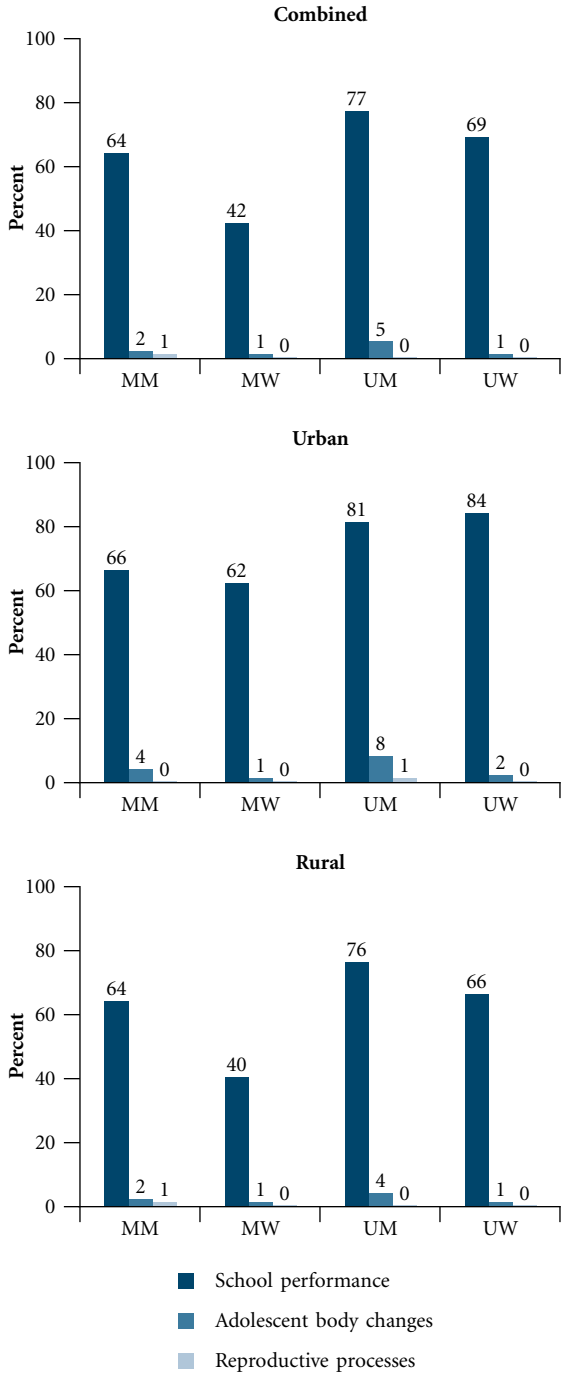
Table 6.5: Parental communication

Percentage of youth who discussed selected matters with parents, according to residence, Bihar, 2007

Issues discussed (%)	M 15–24	W 15–24	MM 15–29	MW 15–24	UM 15–24	UW 15–24	M 15–24	W 15–24	MM 15–29	MW 15–24	UM 15–24	UW 15–24
	Father						Mother					
Combined												
School performance	72.9	52.2	64.3	41.8	77.1	68.9	62.3	59.3	53.2	50.0	66.0	74.6
Friendships	55.0	23.3	55.9	18.9	56.1	29.9	55.4	67.9	53.5	63.7	57.2	74.6
Romantic relationships	0.6	0.4	0.2	0.2	0.8	0.5	0.8	7.2	0.2	5.6	1.0	9.5
Being teased/bullied	3.5	5.5	2.7	5.2	3.5	5.9	2.9	39.3	2.0	35.5	3.4	45.1
Adolescent body changes	4.1	1.1	2.0	1.1	4.7	1.1	3.8	74.2	2.7	71.8	4.2	78.0
Reproductive processes	0.2	0.0	0.6	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.1	3.0	0.3	3.7	0.1	1.6
Contraception	0.3	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.0	0.2	2.5	0.0	2.5	0.2	2.4
Number of respondents[1]	**1,704**	**4,973**	**878**	**2,012**	**1,332**	**2,961**	**1,819**	**5,172**	**968**	**2,121**	**1,417**	**3,051**
Urban												
School performance	79.3	75.3	66.2	62.3	80.8	83.8	68.7	80.5	51.9	69.0	71.4	88.3
Friendships	59.2	40.1	52.1	30.3	60.1	46.9	60.5	80.0	53.1	73.6	61.9	84.5
Romantic relationships	2.1	1.2	0.0	0.0	2.3	1.8	2.3	14.5	0.0	10.1	2.6	17.6
Being teased/bullied	4.1	7.8	2.9	5.7	4.2	8.9	4.6	51.9	2.5	42.6	5.2	58.2
Adolescent body changes	7.5	1.6	4.2	0.8	8.0	2.2	7.3	83.0	3.7	78.3	7.8	86.4
Reproductive processes	0.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.5	0.0	0.4	3.7	0.0	4.6	0.4	3.4
Contraception	0.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.5	0.0	0.4	4.7	0.0	4.7	0.4	4.7
Number of respondents[1]	**890**	**2,298**	**421**	**973**	**728**	**1,325**	**971**	**2,409**	**482**	**1,031**	**787**	**1,378**
Rural												
School performance	71.9	49.2	64.2	40.4	76.3	66.3	61.2	56.6	53.3	48.8	65.0	72.1
Friendships	54.3	21.1	56.3	18.1	55.3	26.9	54.6	66.3	53.6	63.0	56.3	72.8
Romantic relationships	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.3	0.4	0.3	0.4	6.2	0.2	5.3	0.7	8.1
Being teased/bullied	3.4	5.2	2.6	5.1	3.3	5.4	2.6	37.6	1.9	35.1	3.0	42.8
Adolescent body changes	3.6	1.1	1.9	1.2	4.0	0.9	3.3	73.0	2.6	71.3	3.5	76.5
Reproductive processes	0.2	0.0	0.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	2.9	0.2	3.7	0.0	1.2
Contraception	0.3	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.0	0.1	2.2	0.0	2.4	0.2	1.9
Number of respondents[1]	**814**	**2,675**	**457**	**1,039**	**604**	**1,636**	**848**	**2,763**	**486**	**1,090**	**630**	**1,673**

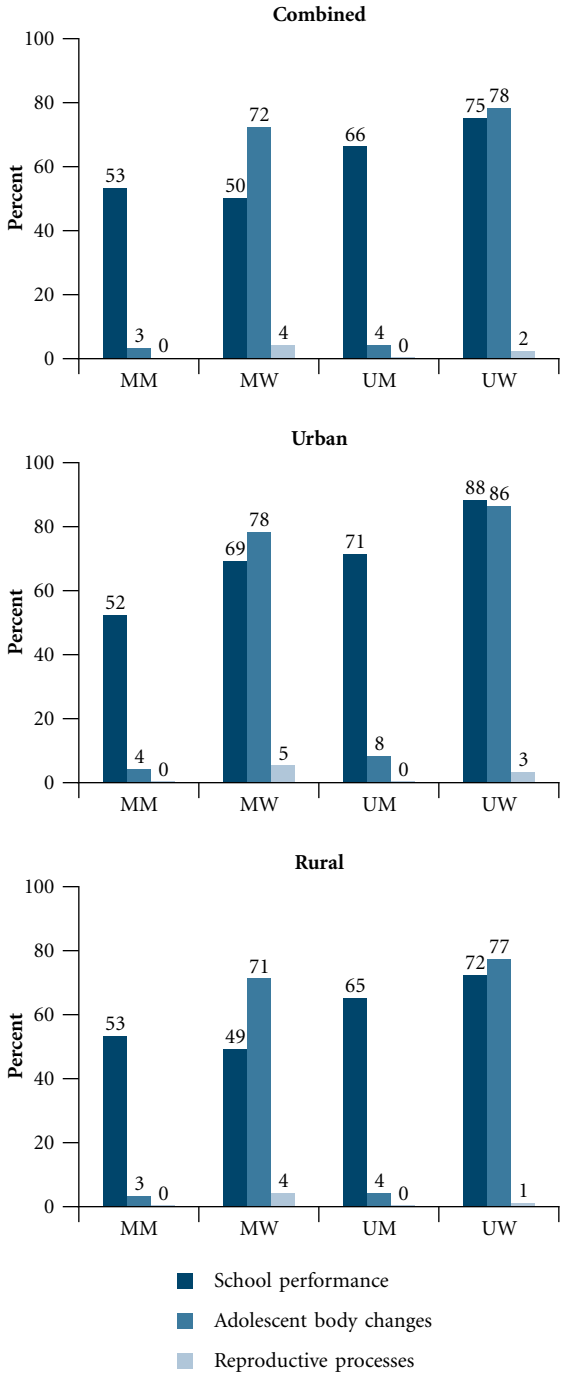
Note: All Ns are unweighted. For married respondents questions referred to the period prior to marriage. [1]Includes only those respondents reporting that their father or mother, respectively, was alive at the time of interview.

Figure 6.3a: Percentage of youth who discussed various matters with their father, according to residence, Bihar, 2007



Note: For married respondents, questions referred to the period prior to marriage. Percentages were calculated only of those respondents reporting that their father was alive at the time of the interview.

Figure 6.3b: Percentage of youth who discussed various matters with their mother, according to residence, Bihar, 2007



Note: For married respondents, questions referred to the period prior to marriage. Percentages were calculated only of those respondents reporting that their mother was alive at the time of the interview.

Among both young men and young women, topics most likely to be discussed with their father were schooling and friendships: about three-quarters of young men and half of young women reported discussing schooling (73% and 52%, respectively) and over half of young men and about one-quarter of young women reported discussing friendships (55% and 23%, respectively) with their father. Six percent or fewer young men and women reported discussing such topics as being teased/ bullied, adolescent body changes, romantic relationships, reproduction and contraception with their father.

The extent to which young men and young women discussed different matters with their mother differed widely. Young women were more likely than young men to have discussed six of the seven topics with their mother. The topics that young men were most likely to have discussed with their mother were identical to those discussed with their father: schooling (62%) and friendships (55%). All other topics were rarely discussed (0–4%). In contrast, large proportions of young women discussed not only schooling and friendships with their mother (59% and 68% respectively) but also being teased or bullied and adolescent body changes (39% and 74%, respectively). However, only 3–7% of young women reported discussing romantic relationships, reproduction and contraception with their mother.

Findings suggest that communication with a parent was more likely to be reported by young women than young men. While young men were about as likely to discuss each issue with their mothers as their fathers, with the exception of school performance, young women were far more likely to discuss almost all matters with their mothers than with their fathers.

Differences by marital status varied across young men and women. Among young men, these differences were largely muted, except that more unmarried than married youth discussed school performance with their parents. Among young women, the unmarried were more likely than the married to discuss both school performance and friendships with both parents. In addition, they were more likely to discuss such topics as being teased/bullied and adolescent body changes with their mothers. Differences by rural-urban residence suggest greater openness with parents among urban compared to rural youth. However, this openness was largely restricted to non-sensitive topics—schooling and friendships. Additionally, urban young women were more likely than their rural counterparts to share such topics as being teased/bullied, romantic relationships and adolescent body changes with their mothers.

6.3 Peer networks and interaction

In order to assess the size of peer networks and the nature of peer interaction, the Youth Study asked young people about the number of same-sex friends they had, whether they had opposite-sex friends and the kinds of activities in which they engaged with their same- and opposite-sex friends. Married respondents were asked to recall the situation prior to marriage.

Table 6.6 reports findings on the size of peer networks. The median number of same-sex friends reported by young men and women were identical (3 friends). Nonetheless, young men were more likely than young women to report five or more same-sex friends (29% versus 19%). No differences by marital status were evident in the median number of same-sex friends reported by young men and women. In terms of rural-urban differences, the median number of same-sex friends reported by unmarried young men in urban settings (4) exceeded, by one, the median number reported by those in rural settings (3). The reverse was true for unmarried young women (2 and 3 in urban and rural areas, respectively). Among the married, no rural-urban differences were evident (all reported a median number of three friends).

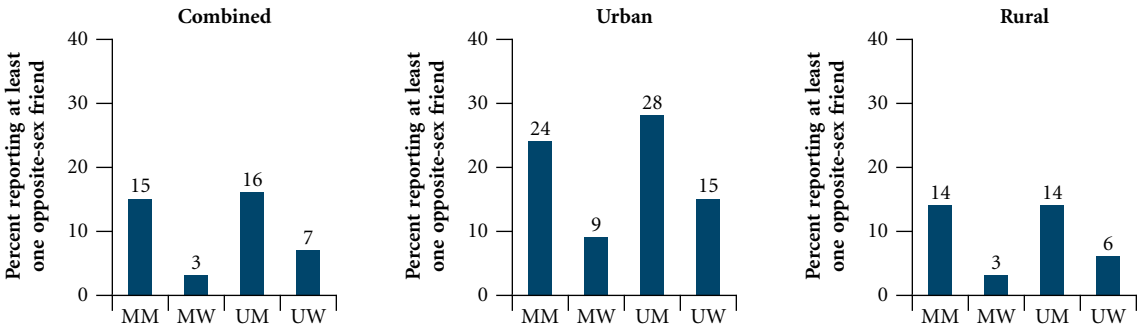
Table 6.6: Size of peer networks

Percent distribution of youth by number of same- and opposite-sex friends, according to residence, Bihar, 2007

Number of friends (%)	M 15–24	W 15–24	MM 15–29	MW 15–24	UM 15–24	UW 15–24
Combined						
Number of same-sex friends						
None	3.6	2.1	3.8	1.9	3.8	2.4
1	16.8	16.4	19.5	14.9	16.2	19.2
2	25.7	28.7	23.9	29.6	26.3	27.3
3	12.0	18.5	10.6	18.5	12.7	18.7
4	12.5	15.4	12.9	15.8	12.3	14.7
5 or more	29.4	18.8	29.4	19.4	28.7	17.7
Median number of same-sex friends	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0
At least one opposite-sex friend (%)	16.2	4.8	14.7	3.2	16.2	7.3
Number of respondents	**1,942**	**5,529**	**1,115**	**2,341**	**1,492**	**3,188**
Urban						
Number of same-sex friends						
None	1.4	2.5	2.2	2.8	1.6	2.4
1	11.1	18.7	12.9	16.9	10.2	20.2
2	21.1	27.8	24.7	28.2	20.7	27.5
3	12.9	17.0	11.8	19.0	13.0	15.6
4	14.3	14.3	14.0	14.8	14.6	13.9
5 or more	39.3	19.7	34.4	18.3	39.8	20.4
Median number of same-sex friends	4.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	4.0	2.0
At least one opposite-sex friend (%)	27.6	12.4	23.9	8.5	28.2	15.4
Number of respondents	**1,039**	**2,581**	**547**	**1,136**	**833**	**1,445**
Rural						
Number of same-sex friends						
None	3.9	2.0	3.9	1.9	4.2	2.3
1	17.8	16.1	20.1	14.7	17.3	19.0
2	26.5	28.9	23.8	29.6	27.4	27.2
3	11.9	18.7	10.5	18.5	12.7	19.3
4	12.2	15.5	12.9	15.8	11.9	14.9
5 or more	27.8	18.7	28.9	19.4	26.5	17.2
Median number of same-sex friends	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0
At least one opposite-sex friend (%)	14.3	3.8	13.9	2.9	13.8	5.8
Number of respondents	**903**	**2,948**	**568**	**1,205**	**659**	**1,743**

Note: All Ns are unweighted. For married respondents, questions referred to the period prior to marriage.

Figure 6.4: Percentage of youth reporting at least one opposite-sex friend, according to residence, Bihar, 2007



Note: For married respondents, questions referred to the period prior to marriage.

Opposite-sex peer networks were reported by sizeable proportions of young people and gender differences were apparent. Young men were somewhat more likely than young women to report having at least one opposite-sex friend (16% of young men compared to 5% of young women). Differences by marital status were modest (see Figure 6.4). Nonetheless, in urban areas, more unmarried young women reported an opposite-sex friend, compared to married young women. Finally, rural young men and women were considerably less likely than their urban counterparts to report an opposite-sex friend.

Table 6.7 reports the nature of interaction with same- and opposite-sex friends. Again, the married were asked to recall the situation prior to marriage. Respondents were asked if they went on picnics or to films with their peers, studied together, spent time chatting, engaged in sporting activities or drank and gambled with their friends.

The activity in which almost all young people engaged was chatting with their same-sex friends. Also, 89% of young men and 76% of young women reported engaging in sports or outdoor games with their same-sex friends. Significant gender differences were evident in other forms of interaction: young men were considerably more likely than young women to report going on picnics or to films (72% and 19% respectively) or studying together with their same-sex peers (66% and 42% respectively). It was notable that one in eight young men (12%) reported drinking and gambling with their same-sex friends; hardly any young women so reported.

Among young men, the unmarried were more likely than the married to report studying (72% versus 49%) and engaging in sports (91% versus 79%) with their same-sex friends. Conversely, the married were more likely than the unmarried to report drinking or gambling with their same-sex friends (25% versus 8%). As in the case of young men, unmarried young women were more likely than the married to report studying (60% versus 31%) with their friends, presumably a function of the higher levels of school attainment of the unmarried. However, the married were more likely to report engaging in sports or outdoor games (83% versus 65%). Rural-urban patterns were, by and large, similar. However, urban young men and women were more likely than their rural counterparts to go on picnics or to films (82% versus 70% among young men; 24% versus 18% among young women). Additionally, urban young women were more likely to study with their same-sex friends (68% versus 38% among young women). Rural young women, however, were somewhat more likely than urban young women to be engaged in sports activities with them (77% versus 71%).

Table 6.7: Interaction with same- and opposite-sex friends

Percentage of youth reporting interaction with same- and opposite-sex friends by types of activities, according to residence, Bihar, 2007

Activities (%)	M 15–24	W 15–24	MM 15–29	MW 15–24	UM 15–24	UW 15–24
A. Activities with same-sex friends						
Combined						
Going on picnics/to see films	72.1	18.6	74.8	16.5	71.4	22.3
Studying together	66.2	41.5	49.3	30.8	72.4	60.0
Spending time chatting/gossiping	99.6	99.9	99.8	100.0	99.5	99.9
Playing sports	88.8	76.4	79.3	82.6	91.3	64.8
Drinking or gambling	12.2	0.1	24.7	0.1	7.9	0.2
Number with at least one same-sex friend	**1,892**	**5,402**	**1,080**	**2,290**	**1,452**	**3,112**
Urban						
Going on picnics/to see films	81.8	23.7	89.0	22.5	80.9	24.5
Studying together	69.0	67.5	55.6	56.8	70.5	75.1
Spending time chatting/gossiping	99.6	99.7	100.0	100.0	99.6	99.8
Playing sports	86.9	71.0	80.2	83.3	88.0	62.2
Drinking or gambling	12.4	0.2	30.0	0.0	10.4	0.2
Number with at least one same-sex friend	**1,024**	**2,517**	**535**	**1,108**	**820**	**1,409**
Rural						
Going on picnics/to see films	70.4	18.0	73.5	16.1	69.5	21.9
Studying together	65.7	38.1	48.7	29.2	72.7	57.2
Spending time chatting/gossiping	99.6	100.0	99.9	100.0	99.5	99.9
Playing sports	89.1	77.1	79.2	82.6	92.1	65.3
Drinking or gambling	12.2	0.1	24.2	0.1	7.5	0.2
Number with at least one same-sex friend	**868**	**2,885**	**545**	**1,182**	**632**	**1,703**
B. Activities with opposite-sex friends						
Combined						
Going on picnics/to see films	36.0	16.4	39.6	18.4	36.9	15.5
Studying together	53.1	47.8	41.5	32.9	57.7	57.8
Spending time chatting/gossiping	98.4	97.0	97.6	100.0	97.9	95.3
Playing sports	26.5	24.0	36.0	28.9	22.4	19.3
Drinking or gambling	0.9	0.4	1.8	0.0	1.2	0.9
Number with at least one opposite-sex friend	**414**	**452**	**212**	**133**	**324**	**319**
Urban						
Going on picnics/to see films	39.0	16.5	40.9	16.7	37.7	16.0
Studying together	53.2	63.8	45.5	58.3	55.1	67.1
Spending time chatting/gossiping	98.7	97.5	100.0	100.0	98.6	98.7
Playing sports	26.0	25.3	27.3	33.3	25.0	22.4
Drinking or gambling	1.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.4	0.0
Number with at least one opposite-sex friend	**284**	**315**	**133**	**97**	**232**	**218**
Rural						
Going on picnics/to see films	34.9	16.4	39.0	(17.2)	36.6	14.7
Studying together	52.9	41.0	40.8	(29.2)	58.7	53.5
Spending time chatting/gossiping	98.3	96.8	97.2	(100.0)	97.7	93.6
Playing sports	26.6	23.4	37.3	(28.1)	20.9	17.8
Drinking or gambling	0.8	0.5	2.1	(0.0)	1.2	1.3
Number with at least one opposite-sex friend	**130**	**137**	**79**	**36**	**92**	**101**

Note: All Ns are unweighted. For married respondents, questions referred to the period prior to marriage. ( ) Based on 25–49 unweighted cases.

The range of activities in which youth engaged with their opposite-sex peers was much narrower. As shown in Panel B of Table 6.7, the only activity in which about as many youth engaged with their opposite-sex friends as their same-sex friends was chatting and gossiping, mentioned by 97–98% of youth reporting at least one opposite-sex friend. As in the case of interactions with same-sex friends, young men tended to be more likely than young women to report that they went to picnic or films (36% versus 16%) or studied (53% versus 48%) with their opposite-sex friends. Differences by marital status were apparent in only a couple of activities (for example, studying and playing sports). More unmarried than married youth reported studying with their opposite-sex friends. Finally, rural-urban differences were largely muted, except that urban young women were more likely than rural young women to study with their opposite-sex friends (64% versus 41%).

6.4 Support networks

The Youth Study also asked respondents about the individual with whom they would most likely discuss a range of personal matters, namely, taking a job, menstrual problems (females) and nocturnal emission or *swapnadosh* (males) and boy-girl relationships. All those aged 20 and above were asked to think back to the time they were aged 15–18 while responding to these questions.

Findings, reported in Table 6.8a, indicate that the person with whom youth would most likely discuss personal matters varied considerably by sex of the respondent and type of topic. Young women tended to consider their mothers as their leading confidante on matters relating to taking a job (34%) and menstrual problems (49%). Matters pertaining to boy-girl relationships, however, were most likely to be confided in peers (39%). Although hardly any young women reported their fathers as the main confidante for boy-girl relationships or menstrual problems, one-fifth of young women reported their fathers as a leading confidante on issues relating to taking a job. Young men, in contrast, were less likely to consider a parent as a key confidante, except on the non-sensitive issue of taking a job (on which 22% cited their mothers and 43% cited their fathers). Parents were rarely cited as key confidantes (less than 2%) by young men on such issues as nocturnal emission or *swapnadosh*, and boy-girl relationships, for which most young men reported peers as their leading confidantes (54% and 79%, respectively). Differences by marital status were negligible among young men, except that more married than unmarried young men reported a friend as a confidante on taking a job. Among young women, these differences were more notable. For example, the unmarried were more likely than the married to report a parent—the mother in particular—as a confidante on all three matters and a friend as a confidante on boy-girl relationship issues. Of note was that while between two-fifths and half of married young women reported their spouse as a leading confidante on all three topics, 1% or fewer of married young men reported so, presumably because more young women than men were married at ages 15–18. Also notable is the finding that 9–20% of married young women reported someone else as a confidante, usually a sister- or brother-in law and even a mother-in-law. Patterns in rural and urban settings remained similar.

Notably, substantial proportions of young men reported that they would not confide in anyone on these topics, ranging from 9% for taking a job to 20% for boy-girl relationship to 37% for anxiety about nocturnal emission. The corresponding percentages among young women ranged from 2% for taking a job and menstrual problems to 11% for boy-girl relationships.

The Youth Study also asked young women about the individual in whom they were most likely to confide if they were teased by a boy. Findings, reported in Table 6.8b, show that over one-third reported that they would confide in their mothers, compared to just 2% who reported that they would confide in their fathers, 11% who would confide in a friend and 10% who would confide in someone else. Married young women reported that they would have been most likely to have confided in their husbands (50%) on this matter, compared to 23% and 8% respectively, who would have confided in a parent or a peer and 11% who would

Table 6.8a: Leading confidante on personal matters

Percent distribution of youth by person with whom they were most likely to discuss selected personal matters between ages 15 and 18, according to topic and residence, Bihar, 2007

Leading confidante (%)	M 15–24	W 15–24	MM 15–29	MW 15–24	UM 15–24	UW 15–24	M 15–24	W 15–24	MM 15–29	MW 15–24	UM 15–24	UW 15–24	M 15–24	W 15–24	MM 15–29	MW 15–24	UM 15–24	UW 15–24
	Taking a job						Menstrual problems (W)/anxiety about nocturnal emission or *swapnadosh* (M)						Boy-girl relationships					
Combined																		
Mother	22.1	33.8	19.6	22.6	22.6	54.8	1.3	48.9	1.6	30.4	1.0	82.6	0.1	5.5	0.2	3.7	0.1	8.7
Father	42.6	19.8	40.0	11.3	41.3	35.0	2.0	0.1	0.4	0.1	2.4	0.1	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.0
Sibling	6.4	2.2	6.4	1.2	6.7	4.0	0.4	2.0	0.0	1.7	0.5	2.4	0.2	3.4	0.0	1.8	0.1	5.9
Friend	14.5	1.0	22.4	0.7	13.1	1.3	54.1	3.0	52.3	3.0	55.7	3.1	78.5	38.6	76.1	26.9	78.3	60.3
Spouse	NA	NA	0.0	49.9	NA	NA	NA	NA	1.0	43.3	NA	NA	NA	NA	0.6	50.1	NA	NA
HCP/locally influential person/teacher	1.7	0.2	2.2	0.1	2.1	0.3	3.5	0.1	3.9	0.1	3.8	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.1
Other	3.9	9.0	3.6	12.1	4.0	3.3	1.8	16.3	1.3	20.0	1.9	9.6	1.2	8.8	1.5	9.3	1.1	7.8
None	8.9	1.9	5.7	2.2	10.2	1.3	36.7	1.6	39.4	1.4	34.7	2.1	19.5	11.3	21.5	8.1	20.0	17.3
Number of respondents	**1,942**	**5,529**	**1,115**	**2,341**	**1,492**	**3,188**	**1,942**	**5,529**	**1,115**	**2,341**	**1,492**	**3,188**	**1,942**	**5,529**	**1,115**	**2,341**	**1,492**	**3,188**
Urban																		
Mother	21.9	36.3	20.7	24.6	22.0	44.9	2.5	69.4	2.2	45.8	2.5	86.6	0.7	8.5	0.0	4.9	0.8	10.9
Father	37.4	32.0	34.8	19.0	37.6	41.3	2.9	0.2	1.1	0.0	3.3	0.2	0.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.4	0.0
Sibling	8.3	5.3	4.3	2.8	9.0	7.3	0.7	3.6	0.0	2.8	0.8	4.3	0.4	8.6	0.0	4.9	0.4	11.5
Friend	19.4	1.7	25.0	2.1	18.4	1.4	61.6	1.6	61.3	1.4	61.5	1.6	83.9	47.7	81.5	34.3	83.6	57.3
Spouse	NA	NA	0.0	38.0	NA	NA	NA	NA	0.0	32.4	NA	NA	NA	NA	0.0	38.5	NA	NA
HCP/locally influential person/teacher	1.4	0.2	2.2	0.0	1.6	0.2	2.9	0.2	3.2	0.0	2.5	0.0	0.4	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.4	0.0
Other	2.9	6.0	4.3	9.2	2.9	3.6	0.7	10.8	1.1	16.9	0.8	6.5	0.4	8.2	1.1	9.8	0.4	7.1
None	8.6	2.5	8.7	4.2	8.6	1.2	28.7	0.9	31.2	0.7	28.7	0.8	14.0	10.8	17.4	7.7	13.9	13.2
Number of respondents	**1,039**	**2,581**	**547**	**1,136**	**833**	**1,445**	**1,039**	**2,581**	**547**	**1,136**	**833**	**1,445**	**1,039**	**2,581**	**547**	**1,136**	**833**	**1,445**
Rural																		
Mother	22.1	33.4	19.5	22.5	22.8	56.6	1.1	46.2	1.6	29.4	0.7	81.9	0.0	5.1	0.2	3.6	0.0	8.3
Father	43.4	18.2	40.4	10.8	42.0	33.8	1.8	0.1	0.5	0.1	2.2	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.0
Sibling	6.1	1.8	6.6	1.0	6.3	3.4	0.3	1.8	0.0	1.6	0.4	2.1	0.1	2.7	0.0	1.6	0.2	4.8
Friend	13.6	0.9	22.2	0.6	12.0	1.3	52.8	3.2	51.4	3.0	54.6	3.4	77.7	37.4	75.6	26.4	77.2	60.9
Spouse	NA	NA	0.0	50.6	NA	NA	NA	NA	1.1	44.0	NA	NA	NA	NA	0.7	50.9	NA	NA
HCP/locally influential person/teacher	1.7	0.1	2.3	0.1	2.2	0.3	3.6	0.1	4.1	0.1	3.9	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.0
Other	4.1	9.4	3.5	12.3	4.3	3.2	2.0	17.0	1.4	20.2	2.2	10.1	1.2	8.9	1.7	9.3	1.1	7.9
None	9.0	1.8	5.5	2.0	10.5	1.3	38.0	1.7	40.0	1.4	35.9	2.3	20.4	11.3	21.9	8.1	21.2	18.0
Number of respondents	**903**	**2,948**	**568**	**1,205**	**659**	**1,743**	**903**	**2,948**	**568**	**1,205**	**659**	**1,743**	**903**	**2,948**	**568**	**1,205**	**659**	**1,743**

Note: All Ns are unweighted. Column totals may not equal 100% due to missing cases or "don't know" responses. Those aged 20 or above were asked to recall the period when they were aged 15–18 years. HCP: Health care provider. NA: Not applicable.

have confided in, as above, the brother- or sister-in-law and even the mother-in-law. In contrast, four-fifths of unmarried young women would confide in a parent (64%) or friend (18%) or someone else (usually a sister-in-law, 9%). Findings also show that young women in urban settings were more likely than those in rural settings to report a parent or sibling as a confidante on matters relating to the experience of teasing. However, larger proportions of married young women in rural areas than in urban areas reported their husbands as a confidante on this issue.

Table 6.8b: Leading confidante on matters relating to the experience of teasing among young women

Percent distribution of young women by person with whom they were most likely to discuss being teased by a boy between ages 15 and 18, according to residence, Bihar, 2007

Leading confidante (%)	W 15–24	MW 15–24	UW 15–24	W 15–24	MW 15–24	UW 15–24	W 15–24	MW 15–24	UW 15–24
	Combined			Urban			Rural		
Mother	35.9	22.1	61.1	48.4	32.4	60.0	34.2	21.5	61.2
Father	1.7	1.0	2.7	3.5	2.1	4.6	1.4	1.0	2.4
Sibling	3.1	1.8	5.3	9.0	5.6	11.3	2.4	1.5	4.2
Friend	11.4	8.0	17.8	12.1	8.5	14.7	11.3	8.0	18.4
Spouse	NA	50.3	NA	NA	39.4	NA	NA	50.9	NA
HCP/locally influential person/teacher	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.1
Other person	10.0	10.9	8.6	8.0	8.5	7.5	10.3	11.0	8.8
None	5.3	5.8	4.4	2.5	3.5	1.8	5.6	6.0	4.9
Number of respondents	**5,529**	**2,341**	**3,188**	**2,581**	**1,136**	**1,445**	**2,948**	**1,205**	**1,743**

Note: All Ns are unweighted. Column totals may not equal 100% due to missing cases or "don't know" responses. Those aged 20 or above were asked to recall the period when they were aged 15–18 years. HCP: Health care provider. NA: Not applicable.

6.5 Summary

Youth Study findings suggest the gendered nature of socialisation of youth. For example, responses from both young men and women indicate that unequal gender norms regarding freedom of movement prevailed in most study households, with three-fifths of young men acknowledging that they had more freedom to go out than their sisters or female cousins did, and almost four-fifths of young women agreeing that they had less freedom to go out than their brothers or male cousins. Moreover, although young men's responses to questions related to housework expectations suggest a gender equal socialisation experience, it is notable that about three-quarters of young women reported that they were expected to do more housework than their brothers or male cousins. Similarly, while parents appeared to control both young men's and women's social interactions, particularly those involving members of the opposite sex, young women were more likely than young men to experience such restrictions. For example, 79–80% of young men and 97% of young women reported expecting parental disapproval if they brought an opposite-sex friend to their home.Nonetheless, it is notable that while young women were brought up with more restrictions, parents appeared to place considerable restrictions on young men's interactions as well, including with same-sex peers.

Findings regarding communication with parents on issues relevant to youth—such as school performance, friendships, being teased or bullied, physical maturation, romantic relationships and reproductive processes—

reiterate those from other studies, showing that such communication is far from universal. Moreover, among all youth, sensitive topics—such as romantic relationships, reproduction and contraception, and adolescent body changes issues among young men—were rarely discussed with either parent.

That parent-child communication was restricted was also evident from responses to questions probing the most likely confidante on a range of topics from taking a job to boy-girl relationships. While parents were mentioned as leading confidantes on topics such as taking a job, they were rarely cited as leading confidantes on more sensitive matters. While young women identified their mothers as the most likely confidante on such matters as menstrual problems and experience of teasing, young men rarely identified a parent as a leading confidante on matters relating to nocturnal emission or *swapnadosh*. And neither young men nor women identified a parent as a leading confidante on boy-girl matters.

Young people's family lives were marked by violence, both experienced and witnessed. One in five youth had observed their fathers beating their mothers. Many respondents reported experiencing a beating by a parent during adolescence; over half of young men and 11% of young women reported such experiences.

In contrast, growing up was associated with close peer networks. Almost all youth reported having same-sex friends. Opposite-sex peer networks were less common but nonetheless reported by 16% of young men and 5% of young women. Interaction with friends tended to be restricted to activities such as chatting and engaging in sports, although young men did tend to report studying and going on picnics or to films. Indeed, findings suggest that youth derived an important measure of support from their peer networks on sensitive matters: friends were by far the leading confidante on boy-girl relationships for both young men and women and on nocturnal emission for young men.

Chapter 7

Agency and gender role attitudes

Evidence on agency and gender role attitudes among youth, although sparse, suggests that in traditional settings such as India, young women and even some young men have limited agency in terms of decision-making on matters affecting their own lives, freedom of movement and access to resources. Gender role attitudes, similarly, tend to be traditional, assigning greater value to young men than young women (Alexander et al., 2006a; 2006b; Ram et al., 2006; Santhya et al., 2008; Sebastian, Grant and Mensch, 2005). This chapter discusses Youth Study findings on agency and gender role attitudes.

7.1 Decision-making

In order to assess young people's involvement in decision-making, the Youth Study asked all respondents about their involvement in decisions related to three specific matters: choice of friends, spending one's own money and buying clothes for oneself. If youth reported that they were involved in decision-making on any issue, they were asked whether they made the decision entirely on their own or jointly with other family members.

Findings, presented in Table 7.1 and Figure 7.1, reveal that irrespective of sex, marital status and place of residence, youth were overwhelmingly likely to choose their friends on their own; 97% of young men and 96% of young women so reported. Fewer youth were involved in making decisions on spending their own money than on choice of friends, and this was particularly evident among young women. For example, while 75% of young men reported that they made decisions on their own about spending money, only 57% of young women so reported. Findings further suggest that a considerable proportion of both young men (11%) and women (20%) reported that it was other family members who made decisions on spending money without their involvement. As shown in Figure 7.1, marital status differences suggest that among young men, the married were more likely than the unmarried (85% versus 72%) to make this decision independently. Among young women, these differences were muted for the overall population, but differed across urban and rural young women. While the unmarried were more likely than the married to have made independent decisions on spending money in urban areas (76% versus 67%), a reverse pattern was evident in rural areas (50% and 57% of unmarried and married women, respectively). Rural-urban differences were negligible among young men, but notable among young women; urban young women were more likely than rural women to report independent decisions related to spending their own money and conversely, rural young women were more likely than urban young women to be entirely excluded from such decisions.

Even fewer youth were involved in making decisions about the purchase of clothes for themselves, and differences were particularly pronounced among young women. For example, while 53% of young men decided on their own about purchasing clothes, only 30% of young women did so. One-third of young women (31%) compared to one-fifth of young men (21%) reported that they did not have any say in decisions to buy clothes for themselves and that it was other family members who made this decision for them. Differences by marital status were also observed. Married young men were more likely than unmarried young men to

Table 7.1: Decision-making

Percent distribution of youth by participation in decision-making on selected matters, according to residence, Bihar, 2007

Participation in decision-making (%)	M 15–24	W 15–24	MM 15–29	MW 15–24	UM 15–24	UW 15–24
A. Choice of friends						
Combined						
Respondent only	97.3	95.5	98.7	95.6	97.0	95.3
Jointly with others	1.5	2.0	0.4	1.8	1.8	2.4
Others only	1.2	2.5	1.0	2.6	1.2	2.4
Number of respondents	**1,942**	**5,529**	**1,115**	**2,341**	**1,492**	**3,188**
Urban						
Respondent only	97.5	97.6	97.8	97.9	97.5	97.6
Jointly with others	1.1	1.4	1.1	1.4	1.2	1.4
Others only	1.4	0.9	1.1	0.7	1.2	1.0
Number of respondents	**1,039**	**2,581**	**547**	**1,136**	**833**	**1,445**
Rural						
Respondent only	97.2	95.3	98.6	95.5	96.9	94.8
Jointly with others	1.5	2.0	0.3	1.8	1.9	2.6
Others only	1.2	2.7	1.1	2.8	1.2	2.6
Number of respondents	**903**	**2,948**	**568**	**1,205**	**659**	**1,743**
B. Spending money						
Combined						
Respondent only	75.1	56.5	85.2	57.3	72.1	53.6
Jointly with others	14.2	23.9	9.5	24.1	15.8	24.2
Others only	10.6	19.6	5.3	18.6	12.2	22.2
Number of respondents	**1,942**	**5,529**	**1,115**	**2,341**	**1,492**	**3,188**
Urban						
Respondent only	78.6	71.9	83.7	66.9	78.3	75.5
Jointly with others	11.1	15.9	12.0	20.4	11.1	12.8
Others only	10.4	12.2	4.3	12.7	10.7	11.7
Number of respondents	**1,039**	**2,581**	**547**	**1,136**	**833**	**1,445**
Rural						
Respondent only	74.5	54.4	85.3	56.7	70.9	49.6
Jointly with others	14.8	25.0	9.3	24.4	16.7	26.2
Others only	10.7	20.6	5.4	18.9	12.4	24.1
Number of respondents	**903**	**2,948**	**568**	**1,205**	**659**	**1,743**

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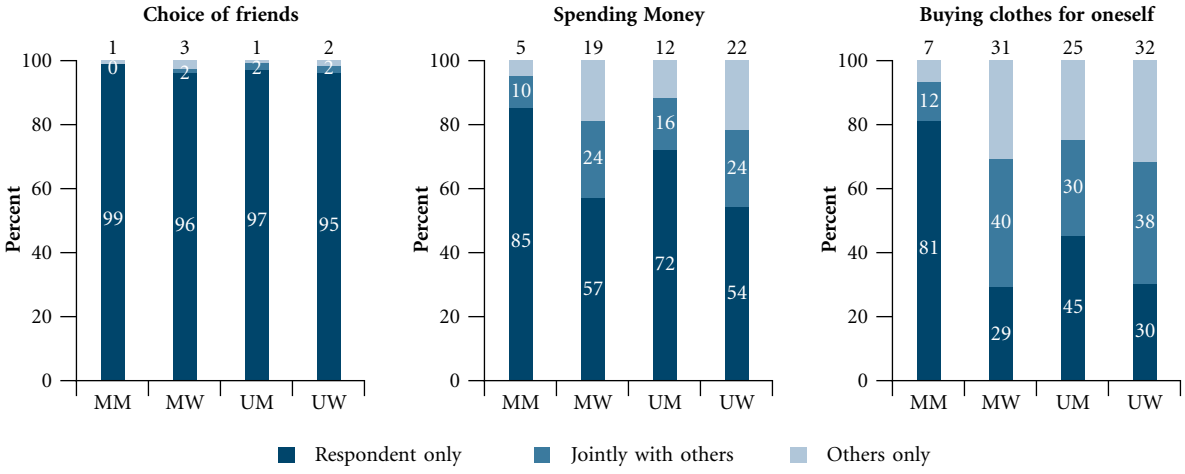
Table 7.1: (Cont'd)

Participation in decision-making (%)	M 15–24	W 15–24	MM 15–29	MW 15–24	UM 15–24	UW 15–24
C. Buying clothes for oneself						
Combined						
Respondent only	53.1	29.7	81.1	29.0	44.5	29.9
Jointly with others	25.6	39.1	11.5	40.0	30.4	37.8
Others only	21.3	31.1	7.4	30.9	25.1	32.4
Number of respondents	**1,942**	**5,529**	**1,115**	**2,341**	**1,492**	**3,188**
Urban						
Respondent only	63.8	46.2	83.7	40.1	61.1	50.4
Jointly with others	17.6	34.5	9.8	38.0	18.9	32.0
Others only	18.6	19.3	6.5	21.8	20.1	17.6
Number of respondents	**1,039**	**2,581**	**547**	**1,136**	**833**	**1,445**
Rural						
Respondent only	51.3	27.6	80.8	28.3	41.3	26.1
Jointly with others	26.9	39.7	11.6	40.2	32.6	38.8
Others only	21.7	32.7	7.5	31.5	26.1	35.1
Number of respondents	**903**	**2,948**	**568**	**1,205**	**659**	**1,743**

Note: All Ns are unweighted. Column totals may not equal 100% due to missing cases or "don't know" responses.

Figure 7.1: Percent distribution of youth by participation in decision-making on selected matters, Bihar, 2007



Note: Percentages may not equal 100.0 because of rounding.

make independent decisions related to buying clothes on their own (81% versus 45%). Among young women, while these differences were muted for overall and rural population, it was the unmarried who were more likely than the married to have made independent decisions in urban areas (50% versus 40%). Finally, rural-urban differences reiterate that larger proportions of urban youth made independent decisions relating to the purchase of clothes. Additionally, rural young women, particularly unmarried young women, were more likely to be entirely excluded from such decisions, compared to their urban counterparts.

In order to assess the extent to which youth had independent decision-making power on all three matters. Table 7.2 presents the percentage of youth who reported that they independently made decisions on choice of friends, spending money and purchase of clothes. In total, 46% of young men compared to 25% of young women reported independent decision-making on all three issues. While married young men were more likely than their unmarried counterparts to make decisions independently, these differences were muted among young women. As observed above, urban youth were more likely than rural youth to report independent decision-making on all three matters.

Table 7.2 also presents combined responses on independent decision-making by selected background characteristics. Findings reveal that independent decision-making on all three matters was indeed higher among older than younger respondents, irrespective of sex and marital status. By and large, a similar pattern prevailed in both urban and rural areas. Differences by religion were, in general, modest; however, Hindu young women in urban areas were more likely than Muslim women to report decision-making authority, irrespective of marital status. Caste-wise differences were modest among young men, but suggest that those

Table 7.2: Decision-making autonomy by selected background characteristics

Percentage of youth who independently made decisions on choice of friends, spending money and buying clothes for themselves by selected background characteristics, according to residence, Bihar, 2007

Background characteristics (%)	M 15–24	W 15–24	MM 15–29	MW 15–24	UM 15–24	UW 15–24
Combined						
Age (years)						
15–19	33.8	21.4	47.1	21.3	32.7	20.7
20–24	66.0	28.9	72.2	27.4	57.7	44.3
25–29	NA	NA	77.6	NA	NA	NA
Religion						
Hindu	46.7	24.7	73.0	24.8	39.0	23.3
Muslim	42.1	22.7	75.6	24.3	33.2	20.0
Caste						
SC	48.6	23.1	66.2	25.5	39.0	14.4
OBC	46.0	22.9	76.3	23.2	37.5	21.1
General[1]	42.6	33.7	72.1	33.6	39.7	32.3
Educational level (years)						
None[2]	52.1	19.0	74.0	20.7	37.1	12.0
1–7	40.9	21.4	69.5	24.8	30.7	17.0
8–11	44.0	34.8	74.4	39.2	38.9	30.1
12 and above	57.7	58.0	78.6	53.3	53.9	59.6
Worked in last 12 months						
Yes	49.1	22.8	74.1	26.3	38.8	15.2
No	37.8	25.5	50.0	23.8	37.4	27.0
Wealth quintile						
First	43.8	26.5	70.9	29.9	27.3	13.3
Second	49.8	17.5	73.8	19.0	36.6	13.4
Third	44.9	20.7	79.5	22.2	32.5	17.2
Fourth	44.7	19.6	70.4	21.7	39.5	16.0
Fifth	47.1	35.5	72.4	31.6	43.0	37.7
Total	**46.0**	**24.5**	**73.4**	**24.7**	**38.3**	**22.7**

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Table 7.2: (Cont'd)

Background characteristics (%)	M 15–24	W 15–24	MM 15–29	MW 15–24	UM 15–24	UW 15–24
Urban						
Age (years)						
15–19	45.4	39.7	*	30.8	45.3	41.9
20–24	70.1	42.7	75.0	35.9	69.0	58.9
25–29	NA	NA	74.1	NA	NA	NA
Religion						
Hindu	56.1	42.6	73.4	36.1	53.5	47.5
Muslim	52.1	33.6	71.4	29.2	51.2	36.7
Caste						
SC	62.1	36.5	78.6	30.4	59.1	40.0
OBC	55.9	37.9	72.9	31.5	53.4	43.0
General[1]	53.2	50.9	72.2	48.1	51.4	52.0
Educational level (years)						
None[2]	51.7	21.1	73.7	23.1	47.6	18.3
1–7	42.0	29.7	66.7	29.4	36.6	30.6
8–11	53.1	47.4	73.5	43.6	50.4	49.0
12 and above	72.5	63.5	81.0	58.8	71.9	64.8
Worked in last 12 months						
Yes	59.1	37.5	73.6	35.3	56.1	39.3
No	50.4	41.7	60.0	34.7	50.4	46.8
Wealth quintile						
First	*	28.6	*	(25.0)	*	*
Second	(58.3)	22.9	(75.0)	27.3	(44.4)	20.0
Third	43.8	25.5	(75.0)	25.0	(35.7)	27.6
Fourth	53.2	31.1	72.2	29.2	50.0	33.9
Fifth	57.2	46.6	73.7	40.2	55.7	50.4
Total	**55.7**	**41.0**	**73.9**	**34.5**	**53.3**	**45.5**
Rural						
Age (years)						
15–19	32.1	19.2	(47.0)	20.9	30.7	17.5
20–24	65.2	27.0	72.0	26.6	54.3	34.9
25–29	NA	NA	77.8	NA	NA	NA
Religion						
Hindu	45.2	22.6	72.9	24.1	36.3	19.0
Muslim	39.8	20.8	76.0	23.9	28.7	16.9
Caste						
SC	47.5	22.1	65.5	25.3	37.2	11.0
OBC	44.2	21.0	76.6	22.7	34.2	17.5
General[1]	39.9	29.2	72.1	31.6	36.7	27.2
Educational level (years)						
None[2]	52.1	18.9	74.0	20.6	35.9	11.6
1–7	40.8	20.5	69.7	24.4	29.9	15.6
8–11	42.3	31.2	74.2	38.3	36.6	25.1
12 and above	51.8	52.0	78.9	*	44.9	53.4
Worked in last 12 months						
Yes	47.8	22.0	74.1	26.1	36.1	13.3
No	34.3	22.5	*	22.8	34.1	22.0
Wealth quintile						
First	43.4	26.4	70.5	30.0	27.5	13.0
Second	49.6	17.3	73.9	18.8	36.2	13.1
Third	44.8	20.5	79.6	22.1	32.3	16.7
Fourth	43.8	18.7	70.0	21.2	38.4	14.4
Fifth	42.5	29.8	72.2	29.2	36.5	30.6
Total	**44.5**	**22.3**	**73.3**	**24.1**	**35.3**	**18.6**

*Note: *Percentage not shown, based on fewer than 25 unweighted cases. ( ) Based on 25-49 unweighted cases. NA: Not applicable. OBC: Other backward caste. SC: Scheduled caste. ST: Scheduled tribe. [1]Includes all those not belonging to SC, ST or OBC. [2]Includes non-literate and literate with no formal schooling.*

belonging to scheduled castes were most likely and those belonging to general castes least likely to report independent decision-making, irrespective of residence. However, the patterns were less consistent when analysed separately for the married and the unmarried. Among young women, those belonging to general castes were more likely than others to report independent decision-making, irrespective of marital status and residence.

Independent decision-making increased consistently with level of education among young women, irrespective of marital status and residence. For example, 58% of those with 12 or more years of schooling decided independently on all three issues, compared with just 19% of young women without any formal education. Among young men, in contrast, differences by education were typically narrow and patterns less consistent. While young men with 12 or more years of education were most likely to report independent decision-making, those with 1–7 years and 8–11 years of schooling were far less likely than those with no formal education to report independent decision-making.

Economic activity status was associated with independent decision-making among young men; those who had worked in the last 12 months tended to be more likely than others to make decisions independently, irrespective of residence. While a similar pattern was evident among married young men, the differences were muted among unmarried young men. Among young women, the association was unclear, except that unmarried working women were less likely than other women to report independent decision-making, irrespective of residence.

Differences in independent decision-making by economic status of households were, in general, narrow among young men, irrespective of residence. Even so among the unmarried, those from households in the poorest quintile were least likely and those from households in the wealthiest quintile most likely to report independent decision making. Among young women, those belonging to households in the wealthiest quintile were more likely than others to report independent decision making. At the same time, it is notable that young women from households in the poorest quintile were more likely than those from households belonging to second to fourth quintiles to report independent decision making. It is also notable that even young men from households in the poorest (first) quintile were typically more likely to report independent decision-making than young women in the wealthiest quintile. Findings, moreover, suggest that the patterns differed for the married and the unmarried. Among the married, young women belonging to the poorest and the wealthiest quintiles were more likely than others to report independent decision making. In contrast among the unmarried, differences in percentages who reported independent decision making were mild among those in the first to fourth quintiles (13–17%) and were apparent for the wealthiest quintile, among whom 38% reported independent decision making.

7.2 Freedom of movement

Freedom of movement was assessed only for all young women and unmarried young men because married young men generally have unrestricted mobility. Mobility was measured by a number of questions relating to whether the respondent perceived that he or she was permitted to visit places within and outside the village (rural) or neighbourhood (urban) unescorted, only if accompanied by someone else, or was not permitted to visit the place at all. Places within the village or neighbourhood included a shop/market, the home of a friend/relative and a community programme. Places outside the village or neighbourhood included the home of a relative or friend, movie theatre, video parlour or other place of entertainment and a community programme. Finally, all respondents were asked if they could go to a health facility unescorted if required. Table 7.3 and Figure 7.2 report findings relating to mobility.

Findings confirm that freedom of movement even within the village or neighbourhood was not universal, although the mobility of young women, both married and unmarried, was far more limited than that of young men. For example, findings suggest that 53% of young women—49% and 61% of the married and the unmarried, respectively—could go unescorted to a shop or market within the village or neighbourhood compared with 98% of unmarried young men. Notably, 19% of married young women and 8% of unmarried young women were not at all allowed to go to a shop or market within the village or neighbourhood. Mobility to attend programmes within the village or neighbourhood was more restricted than the above, particularly among young women. Only 12% of young women were allowed to attend community programmes within the village or neighbourhood unescorted compared with 77% of unmarried young men. Moreover, 15% of young women were not allowed to attend such programmes at all.

Freedom to visit places outside the village or neighbourhood unescorted was even more restricted than mobility within the village or neighbourhood. Of the three sites, freedom to visit a place of entertainment or to attend a programme was more curtailed than freedom to visit a friend or relative residing outside the village or neighbourhood. Young women's mobility was particularly limited: fewer than 2% were permitted to visit a place of entertainment or to attend a programme conducted outside the village or neighbourhood unescorted. While 65% and 75% were allowed to visit a place of entertainment or attend a programme, respectively, if accompanied, as many as one in four and one in three young women were not allowed to attend a programme or to visit a place of entertainment outside the home village or neighbourhood, respectively, under any circumstances. While young men's mobility was not curtailed to the same extent as young women, it was far from universal: findings show that 48–56% of unmarried young men were allowed to visit a place of entertainment or to attend a programme conducted outside their village or neighbourhood unescorted and the large majority (83%) were allowed to visit friends or relatives outside the village or neighbourhood unescorted.

With regard to freedom to visit a health facility unescorted, findings, presented in Table 7.3, reveal that just one-tenth of young women, compared with 70% of unmarried young men, reported that they could do so.

Differences by marital status in young women's mobility were evident in relation to selected locations; the unmarried were more likely than the married to report freedom to visit shops and friends within the village or neighbourhood. Conversely, the married were somewhat more likely to report freedom to visit a health facility. With regard to freedom to visit other locations, differences were muted.

Rural-urban differentials in freedom of movement were muted among young men, but notable among young women. A larger proportion of those in urban compared to rural areas were allowed to go unescorted to such locations within their villages or neighbourhoods as a shop or market (62% and 52%, respectively) or a friend or relative (65% and 56%, respectively) and even to visit friends or relatives outside the respondent's village or urban neighbourhood (17% and 8%, respectively). With regard to all other locations, these differences were modest; however, young women in urban areas were somewhat more likely to report freedom of movement than their rural counterparts. Conversely, rural young women were twice as likely as urban young women to report that they were not at all allowed to visit many of these locations, including a shop or market, a place of entertainment outside their village or neighbourhood and community programmes inside or outside their village or neighbourhood. Findings, moreover, show that rural-urban differentials in young women's freedom of movement were much wider among the unmarried than the married.

Table 7.3: Freedom of movement

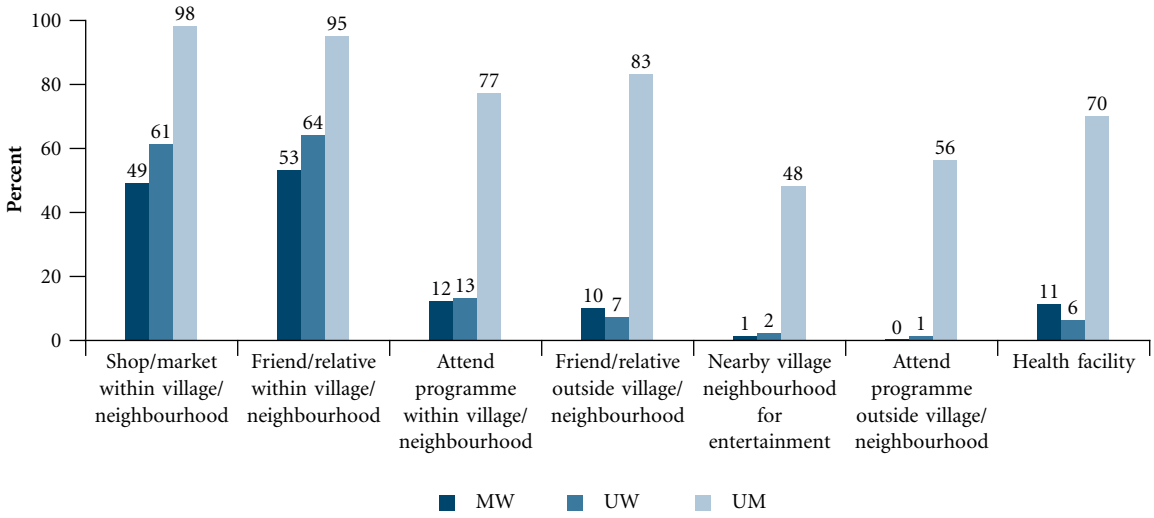
Percent distribution of youth by extent of freedom to visit selected locations within or outside the village/neighbourhood, according to residence, Bihar, 2007

Mobility indicators (%)	W 15–24	MW 15–24	UW 15–24	UM 15–24	W 15–24	MW 15–24	UW 15–24	UM 15–24	W 15–24	MW 15–24	UW 15–24	UM 15–24
	Combined				Urban				Rural			
Permitted to:												
Visit shop/market within village/neighbourhood												
Alone	53.0	48.5	61.0	97.7	61.9	50.3	70.0	99.6	51.9	48.4	59.3	97.3
Only with someone else	32.4	33.0	31.4	2.3	29.6	35.7	25.3	0.4	32.7	32.8	32.6	2.7
Not allowed	14.6	18.5	7.6	0.0	8.5	14.0	4.7	0.0	15.4	18.7	8.1	0.0
Visit friend/relative within village/neighbourhood												
Alone	56.8	52.5	64.4	94.6	65.0	52.8	74.1	95.9	55.7	52.5	62.6	94.2
Only with someone else	38.9	41.7	34.1	5.1	31.7	40.8	24.9	3.3	39.9	41.7	35.8	5.4
Not allowed	4.2	5.7	1.5	0.3	3.3	6.3	1.0	0.8	4.4	5.6	1.6	0.3
Attend programme within village/neighbourhood												
Alone	12.1	11.8	12.6	77.0	14.0	12.0	15.4	77.6	11.9	11.8	12.1	76.9
Only with someone else	73.0	71.5	75.5	19.4	78.5	76.8	79.6	18.4	72.3	71.1	74.7	19.6
Not allowed	14.9	16.7	11.9	3.6	7.5	11.3	5.1	4.1	15.8	17.1	13.1	3.5
Visit friend/relative outside village/neighbourhood												
Alone	9.0	9.5	7.3	82.5	17.1	11.9	20.9	84.4	7.9	9.4	4.8	82.1
Only with someone else	86.8	85.9	88.9	12.9	81.3	85.3	78.3	12.3	87.5	85.9	90.8	13.0
Not allowed	4.2	4.6	3.8	4.6	1.6	2.8	0.8	3.3	4.6	4.7	4.4	4.9
Visit nearby village/ neighbourhood for entertainment												
Alone	1.5	0.9	2.3	48.4	6.8	3.5	8.9	50.2	0.9	0.7	1.1	48.1
Only with someone else	65.0	64.2	65.6	25.5	78.6	81.0	77.2	32.2	63.3	63.2	63.5	24.1
Not allowed	33.4	34.9	32.1	26.1	14.6	15.5	13.9	17.6	35.9	36.1	35.4	27.7
Attend programme outside village/neighbourhood												
Alone	0.6	0.4	0.7	55.6	2.2	2.1	2.4	58.6	0.4	0.4	0.4	55.0
Only with someone else	74.6	72.7	77.5	25.3	85.7	83.2	87.3	22.5	73.2	72.0	75.7	25.8
Not allowed	24.8	26.9	21.7	19.1	12.1	14.7	10.3	18.9	26.4	27.6	23.9	19.2
Visit health facility												
Alone	9.5	11.2	5.9	70.3	13.7	14.7	13.0	74.2	8.9	11.0	4.6	69.6
Only with someone else	88.6	87.6	90.9	29.1	85.4	84.6	86.0	25.8	89.1	87.8	91.8	29.7
Not allowed	1.9	1.2	3.2	0.6	0.9	0.7	1.0	0.0	2.0	1.3	3.6	0.7
Number of respondents	**5,529**	**2,341**	**3,188**	**1,492**	**2,581**	**1,136**	**1,445**	**833**	**2,948**	**1,205**	**1,743**	**659**

Note: All Ns are unweighted. Column totals may not equal 100% due to missing cases or "don't know" responses. Questions regarding freedom of movement were not asked of married males, as their mobility is generally unrestricted.

Summary measures have been created from the range of questions relating to freedom to visit places within and outside the village or neighbourhood, namely, the percentage who were free to visit at least one place within the village or neighbourhood, on one hand, and outside the village or neighbourhood, on the other. As shown in Table 7.4, 99% and 86% of unmarried young men had freedom to visit at least one place within and outside the village or neighbourhood, respectively and 70% to visit a health facility. In comparison, only 64% of young women reported freedom to visit at least one place within the village or neighbourhood and

Figure 7.2: Percentage of youth allowed to visit selected places within and outside the village/ neighbourhood unescorted, Bihar, 2007



Note: Questions regarding freedom of movement were not asked of married males, as their mobility is generally unrestricted.

10% each to visit at least one place outside the village or neighbourhood and a health facility. Differences by marital status were wide with respect to freedom to visit at least one place within the village or neighbourhood, with the unmarried more likely than the married to report freedom to do so; however, the differences were modest with regard to freedom to visit at least one place outside the village or neighbourhood. Likewise, urban young women were more likely than rural young women to report freedom to visit at least one location within or outside the village or neighbourhood. Table 7.4 presents percentages of youth reporting each of these summary measures of freedom of movement as well as freedom to visit a health facility by selected socio-economic and demographic characteristics.

Findings reveal that among unmarried young men, socio-demographic differentials were narrow in the case of mobility within the village. Freedom to visit places outside the village and a health centre unescorted, however, increased with age and work status. Additionally, somewhat more Muslim young men compared to Hindu men and more young men belonging to general castes compared to those belonging to scheduled castes reported freedom to visit locations outside the village or neighbourhood. Similarly, better educated young men were more likely than others to report freedom to visit a health facility. Other associations were modest and less consistent.

Among young women, socio-demographic differentials were evident. Even so, they were typically quite narrow and inconsistent with some exceptions. With regard to mobility within the village or neighbourhood, for instance, more working than non-working women reported freedom to visit locations within the village or neighbourhood; and a generally inverse association was observed between household economic status and freedom to visit locations within the village or neighbourhood, with households in the poorest quintile more likely than others to report mobility. With regard to freedom to visit locations outside the village or urban neighbourhood and to visit a health facility, socio-demographic differentials were apparent in more instances. For example, older women were somewhat more likely to report freedom than younger women. Findings also suggest that even though mobility did not increase steadily with years of schooling, those who had completed 12 years of schooling or more were consistently more likely than others to report freedom of movement.

Table 7.4: Freedom of movement by selected background characteristics

Percentage of youth who could visit various places unescorted by selected background characteristics, according to residence, Bihar, 2007

Background characteristics (%)	W 15–24	MW 15–24	UW 15–24	UM 15–24	W 15–24	MW 15–24	UW 15–24	UM 15–24	W 15–24	MW 15–24	UW 15–24	UM 15–24
	Within village/neighbourhood				Outside village/neighbourhood				Health facility			
Combined												
Age (years)												
15–19	66.4	58.2	73.3	98.8	6.9	5.7	7.4	83.5	5.4	5.9	4.7	68.5
20–24	60.3	59.1	74.0	99.4	13.4	12.9	17.6	94.3	15.5	15.2	18.8	77.0
Religion												
Hindu	63.8	58.8	74.0	99.1	10.1	10.2	9.0	85.0	10.0	11.5	6.4	70.8
Muslim	64.2	58.2	70.8	98.1	6.3	6.7	5.3	90.8	6.5	8.6	4.0	67.6
Caste												
SC	67.3	66.1	71.0	98.4	10.8	12.7	4.7	79.9	9.3	10.8	4.0	73.9
OBC	62.8	56.8	74.4	99.3	8.7	8.9	7.8	85.8	9.0	10.8	4.9	69.5
Genearl[1]	63.6	51.8	72.2	98.3	11.2	9.0	11.6	89.5	12.1	14.3	9.9	69.8
Educational level (years)												
None[2]	64.9	63.6	70.5	100.0	10.0	11.5	3.2	90.3	9.7	11.5	2.1	66.9
1–7	62.9	53.3	73.9	98.1	5.1	5.6	4.1	82.2	6.8	10.4	2.5	62.5
8–11	62.0	45.0	74.4	98.9	11.2	8.0	12.7	85.4	9.9	11.0	8.6	71.7
12 and above	66.4	46.7	77.2	100.0	22.0	8.3	28.2	91.1	19.6	11.7	24.6	85.9
Worked in last 12 months												
Yes	76.0	75.5	76.8	99.1	12.5	15.8	5.7	88.9	11.8	15.7	3.9	72.8
No	56.8	48.3	71.4	98.7	7.8	6.1	9.8	80.4	8.1	8.4	7.0	65.7
Wealth quintile												
First	72.8	71.1	79.3	98.2	11.5	14.1	2.5	85.6	12.1	14.8	1.7	70.3
Second	67.6	65.9	72.0	100.0	8.2	9.8	4.0	81.4	6.9	9.0	1.7	61.3
Third	62.5	59.4	69.4	98.6	9.8	12.0	5.0	87.0	6.9	8.7	2.7	64.0
Fourth	57.4	45.7	75.7	98.5	6.3	6.1	6.3	85.9	10.0	13.1	5.1	70.8
Fifth	60.9	47.8	72.3	99.3	11.6	6.0	15.3	86.5	11.0	9.9	11.5	75.9
Total	**63.9**	**58.7**	**73.3**	**98.9**	**9.5**	**9.8**	**8.3**	**85.9**	**9.5**	**11.2**	**5.9**	**70.3**
Urban												
Age (years)												
15–19	73.6	51.3	79.1	99.4	20.1	10.3	22.7	82.0	9.9	10.3	10.1	68.1
20–24	65.3	59.2	80.4	100.0	20.1	14.6	32.7	95.2	18.2	16.3	23.4	85.7
Religion												
Hindu	71.1	58.0	80.9	99.5	22.1	13.6	28.2	87.0	14.9	16.1	14.2	73.4
Muslim	64.7	50.0	73.5	100.0	10.9	12.5	11.1	86.0	7.6	8.3	8.1	77.3
Caste												
SC	70.2	62.5	76.8	100.0	11.9	8.7	14.5	90.9	10.6	16.7	5.5	82.6
OBC	68.8	55.4	79.8	99.3	18.3	11.8	23.3	85.8	13.1	13.0	13.2	70.7
Genearl[1]	72.8	57.7	79.3	100.0	28.0	22.2	30.7	87.5	16.1	19.2	15.3	78.9
Educational level (years)												
None[2]	62.7	57.7	72.1	100.0	9.2	9.8	5.0	95.2	8.5	11.5	3.3	81.0
1–7	65.9	52.9	77.8	97.6	12.4	11.8	14.1	78.0	9.4	11.8	6.1	66.7
8–11	71.6	59.0	78.1	100.0	22.8	15.4	25.7	84.6	14.7	17.9	12.8	70.3
12 and above	79.4	58.8	86.4	100.0	36.0	23.5	40.8	95.3	22.4	17.6	23.2	84.1
Worked in last 12 months												
Yes	78.1	70.6	82.1	100.0	20.8	17.6	21.4	89.3	15.6	17.6	14.1	77.1
No	68.5	55.2	78.8	99.1	20.0	12.1	25.6	84.1	13.3	13.7	12.9	70.8
Wealth quintile												
First	64.3	(60.0)	*	*	13.3	(20.0)	*	*	7.1	(20.0)	*	*
Second	69.4	63.6	85.0	(100.0)	8.6	9.1	10.0	(88.9)	8.3	9.1	5.0	(77.8)
Third	67.3	60.0	76.7	(100.0)	11.5	12.5	6.9	(71.4)	9.6	12.5	3.4	(64.3)
Fourth	70.0	62.5	76.7	100.0	13.3	12.5	15.0	86.8	12.2	16.7	8.5	76.9
Fifth	70.6	54.0	80.2	99.5	23.6	13.8	28.9	88.0	15.0	14.9	14.9	74.2
Total	**70.0**	**57.0**	**79.4**	**99.6**	**20.1**	**13.4**	**24.9**	**86.9**	**13.7**	**14.7**	**13.0**	**74.2**

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Table 7.4: (Cont'd)

Background characteristics (%)	W 15–24	MW 15–24	UW 15–24	UM 15–24	W 15–24	MW 15–24	UW 15–24	UM 15–24	W 15–24	MW 15–24	UW 15–24	UM 15–24
	Within village/neighbourhood				Outside village/neighbourhood				Health facility			
Rural												
Age (years)												
15–19	65.5	58.5	72.4	98.8	5.3	5.6	5.1	83.6	4.8	5.7	3.8	68.5
20–24	59.6	59.1	69.9	99.2	12.5	12.8	7.8	93.9	15.2	15.1	15.7	74.0
Religion												
Hindu	63.0	58.8	72.7	99.0	8.6	9.9	5.5	84.7	9.4	11.3	4.9	70.3
Muslim	64.0	58.8	70.3	97.6	5.5	6.6	4.2	92.1	6.2	8.6	3.2	64.8
Caste												
SC	67.1	66.2	70.0	98.7	10.7	12.7	3.4	78.9	9.2	10.8	3.8	73.5
OBC	62.1	57.0	73.5	99.3	7.5	8.7	5.2	85.9	8.5	10.7	3.5	69.3
Genearl[1]	61.2	51.0	70.3	97.9	6.9	7.1	6.7	90.1	10.9	13.8	8.4	67.5
Educational level(years)												
None[2]	65.0	63.8	70.4	100.0	10.0	11.6	3.0	90.2	9.7	11.5	2.0	64.7
1–7	62.6	53.4	73.5	98.2	4.3	5.2	3.2	82.9	6.6	10.3	2.1	62.3
8–11	59.3	42.9	73.4	98.6	8.0	6.9	9.2	85.6	8.6	10.0	7.6	71.8
12 and above	53.6	*	66.0	100.0	8.0	*	12.6	89.8	16.8	*	26.2	87.4
Worked in last 12 months												
Yes	75.9	75.7	76.4	98.9	12.1	15.7	4.4	88.8	11.7	15.6	3.2	72.1
No	54.7	47.7	69.5	98.8	5.6	5.5	5.7	79.4	7.1	7.9	5.5	64.3
Wealth quintile												
First	73.0	71.2	79.7	98.2	11.6	14.0	2.5	85.3	12.1	15.0	1.7	70.6
Second	67.5	66.0	71.6	100.0	8.2	9.8	3.5	80.9	6.9	9.0	1.5	59.9
Third	62.3	59.4	69.0	98.5	9.8	12.0	4.9	87.8	6.7	8.5	2.7	64.0
Fourth	56.4	44.8	75.6	98.4	5.6	5.8	5.6	86.0	9.9	12.9	4.8	70.1
Fifth	56.0	46.0	68.0	98.9	5.5	3.8	7.6	85.5	9.0	8.5	9.7	76.8
Total	**63.1**	**58.8**	**72.2**	**98.9**	**8.2**	**9.5**	**5.2**	**85.6**	**8.9**	**11.0**	**4.6**	**69.6**

*Note: ( ) Based on 25–49 unweighted cases. *Percentage not shown, based on fewer than 25 unweighted cases. Questions regarding freedom of movement were not asked of married males, as their mobility is generally unrestricted. OBC: Other backward caste. SC: Scheduled caste. ST: Scheduled tribe. [1]Includes all those not belonging to SC, ST or OBC. [2]Includes non-literate and literate with no formal schooling.*

Patterns of socio-demographic differentials in measures of mobility differed among married and unmarried young women. For example, while unmarried young women's mobility within the village or neighbourhood did not differ much by any of the selected background characteristics, mobility of married young women differed considerably by such background characteristics as caste, education, work participation and household economic status. Interestingly, findings consistently suggest that progressively better educated women and those from economically better off families had less freedom of movement than other women. Patterns also differed with regard to associations between background characteristics and freedom to visit locations outside the village and a health facility. Indeed, while age conferred freedom on both the married and the unmarried, associations observed among the married did not hold true among the unmarried and vice-versa. For example, young women's freedom to visit locations outside the village or neighbourhood and a health facility was positively associated with work participation among the married, but not among the unmarried. Similarly, while among the unmarried, young women belonging to households in the wealthiest quintile were more likely than others to report freedom to visit locations outside the village or neighbourhood and a health facility, no such pattern was observed among the married. Finally, freedom to move outside the village or neighbourhood and to visit a health facility increased systematically with education among the unmarried but not among the married. The fact that differences by education were wide among the unmarried but not observed among the married suggests that marriage may have limited the positive association between education and mobility.

Socio-demographic differentials in mobility, described above for the overall population were observed, by and large, among rural and urban respondents, as seen in Table 7.4. Even so, some exceptions were notable. For example, while mobility within the village or neighbourhood increased with education among urban young women, a reverse pattern was observed among rural young women. Similarly, while the association between mobility within the village or neighbourhood and economic status of the household was inconsistent among young women in urban settings, it declined with increasing economic status among young women in rural areas.

7.3 Access to money

In order to understand access to financial resources among youth, information was obtained on whether they had any savings, from any source, ranging from wages to gifts and pocket money. They were also asked whether they owned an account in a bank or a post office and if so, whether they operated the account themselves. Results are presented in Table 7.5.

Wide gender differences were observed. For example, young women were twice as likely as young men to have reported savings (44% of young women compared to 20% of young men). Differences by marital status were narrow among young women, but wide among young men; 30% and 16% of married and unmarried young men, respectively, reported some savings. Somewhat more urban than rural youth reported savings, and the difference was pronounced among young women (24% versus 19% among young men, and 56% versus 43% among young women).

Findings on ownership of a bank/post office account reveal a different picture. Only a minority of youth reported owning a bank/post office account; even so, more young men than women so reported—11% of young men and 5% of young women. Gender differences were wider among the married. For example, married young men were four times as likely as married young women to own an account (17% and 4%, respectively), highlighting married young women's limited access to resources. Differences by marital status suggest that married young men were somewhat more likely than unmarried young men to own an account (17% and 10%, respectively). Among young women, marital status differences were negligible. Rural-urban differences were apparent as well, with urban residents more likely than rural respondents to report owning a bank account (21% versus 10% among young men and 14% versus 4% among young women).

With regard to operation of the account too, gender differences were stark. Over three-quarters of young men (77%) who owned an account operated it themselves. In contrast, only about two-fifths of young women who owned an account did so (38%). Marital status differences suggest that the married were more likely than the unmarried to operate their accounts on their own. Rural-urban differences were negligible for young men, but wider for young women, among whom rural women were more likely than their urban counterparts to operate their own accounts (41% and 32%, respectively); we note however, that among unmarried young women, it was the urban who were more likely than the rural to operate their own accounts.

7.4 Gender role attitudes

In order to understand gender role attitudes, youth were asked seven questions reflecting attitudes, including the relative importance attached to educating boys versus girls, the role of husbands as main decision-makers with regard to spending money, girls' participation in decisions about their own marriages, a woman's need to take permission from her husband for any activity, the comparative performance of girls versus boys in studies, gender roles in domestic work and whether girls who dress provocatively deserve to be teased. Findings, presented in Table 7.6, suggest a mixed scenario.

Table 7.5: Access to money

Percentage of youth who reported having any savings, owning an account in a bank or post office and operating the account themselves, according to residence, Bihar, 2007

Savings indicators (%)	M 15–24	W 15–24	MM 15–29	MW 15–24	UM 15–24	UW 15–24
Combined						
Has savings of any amount	19.5	44.3	30.3	45.2	16.4	41.8
Ownership of a bank/post office account:						
In own (respondent's) name	8.7	2.6	14.3	2.1	7.8	3.0
Jointly with someone else	2.7	2.3	3.1	2.2	2.6	2.4
No account	88.7	95.1	82.6	95.7	89.7	94.7
Number of respondents	**1,942**	**5,529**	**1,115**	**2,341**	**1,492**	**3,188**
Operates bank/post office account themselves	76.8	38.2	89.7	46.0	70.8	27.7
Number with an account	**309**	**469**	**270**	**182**	**221**	**287**
Urban						
Has savings of any amount	23.7	56.4	32.6	55.9	22.5	56.7
Ownership of a bank/post office account:						
In own (respondent's) name	15.4	8.2	30.4	5.6	14.3	10.1
Jointly with someone else	5.4	6.1	3.3	7.0	5.7	5.7
No account	79.2	85.9	67.4	88.0	80.0	84.4
Number of respondents	**1,039**	**2,581**	**547**	**1,136**	**833**	**1,445**
Operates bank/post office account themselves	73.7	32.2	90.3	35.3	70.8	31.2
Number with an account	**222**	**363**	**179**	**137**	**165**	**226**
Rural						
Has savings of any amount	18.8	42.8	30.1	44.5	15.2	39.1
Ownership of a bank/post office account:						
In own (respondent's) name	7.5	1.9	12.9	2.0	6.6	1.7
Jointly with someone else	2.2	1.8	3.1	1.9	2.0	1.7
No account	90.4	96.3	84.0	96.2	91.6	96.6
Number of respondents	**903**	**2,948**	**568**	**1,205**	**659**	**1,743**
Operates bank/post office account themselves	77.9	41.2	89.6	(48.8)	70.5	24.2
Number with an account	**87**	**106**	**91**	**45**	**56**	**61**

Note: All Ns are unweighted. Column totals may not equal 100% due to missing cases or "don't know" responses. ( ) Based on 25–49 unweighted cases.

Questions that were most likely to elicit egalitarian attitudes from both young men and women included whether educating boys was more important than educating girls, whether girls are usually as good as boys in studies and whether husbands should be the main decision-makers with regard to spending money; 61–78% of young men and 82–88% of young women expressed egalitarian views on these matters. In addition, almost two-thirds of young women (65%), but many fewer young men (36%) expressed egalitarian attitudes about whether girls should be allowed to decide about their own marriage. Questions that were least likely to elicit egalitarian responses from youth included whether women should obtain their husbands' permission for most things (15% of young men and 31% of young women disagreed with the statement) and whether girls who dress provocatively deserve to be teased (35% of young men and 37% of young women disagreed with the statement). Variation in reporting of egalitarian attitudes by topic is highlighted in Figure 7.3.

Table 7.6: Gender role attitudes

Percent distribution of youth by attitudes towards gender roles, according to residence, Bihar, 2007

Gender role attitudes (%)	M 15–24	W 15–24	MM 15–29	MW 15–24	UM 15–24	UW 15–24
Combined						
Educating boys is more important than educating girls						
Yes	20.0	8.3	17.7	10.1	20.4	5.3
No	77.7	87.6	79.8	84.7	77.7	92.5
Husband alone/mainly should decide about spending money						
Yes	33.9	16.9	40.2	19.2	31.1	13.1
No	60.9	81.6	58.5	80.0	62.4	84.2
Girls should be allowed to decide about their own marriage						
Yes	35.9	64.9	33.4	62.6	36.8	68.5
No	59.4	28.8	62.8	30.6	58.2	25.9
A woman should obtain her husband's permission for most things						
Yes	82.1	68.3	84.8	71.3	80.6	63.1
No	14.5	30.9	14.3	28.1	15.1	35.7
Girls are usually as good as boys in studies						
Yes	71.6	83.8	72.8	81.2	72.9	88.0
No	21.3	7.2	17.3	7.8	21.9	6.3
Boys should do as much domestic work as girls						
Yes	51.9	46.1	51.9	43.2	53.4	50.6
No	45.9	53.3	46.6	56.0	43.7	48.9
Girls who dress provocatively deserve to be teased						
Yes	54.8	54.8	54.2	56.8	54.8	51.1
No	34.9	37.0	35.5	34.6	34.9	41.3
Number of respondents	**1,942**	**5,529**	**1,115**	**2,341**	**1,492**	**3,188**

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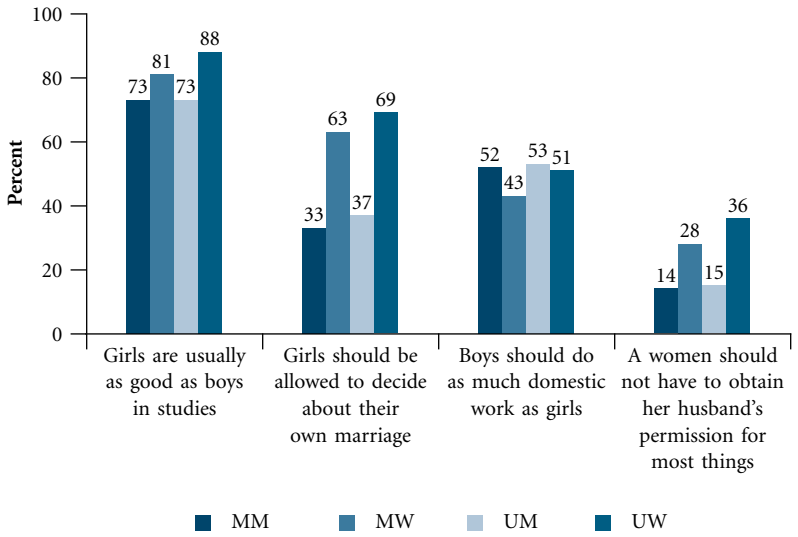
Table 7.6: (Cont'd)

Gender role attitudes (%)	M 15–24	W 15–24	MM 15–29	MW 15–24	UM 15–24	UW 15–24
Urban						
Educating boys is more important than educating girls						
Yes	16.8	3.0	15.2	4.2	16.8	2.0
No	81.1	95.0	83.7	93.0	81.1	96.6
Husband alone/mainly should decide about spending money						
Yes	30.8	8.5	37.0	11.3	29.9	6.7
No	65.6	90.7	62.0	88.7	66.4	92.1
Girls should be allowed to decide about their own marriage						
Yes	46.6	77.1	44.6	72.7	47.5	80.0
No	49.1	19.8	53.3	22.4	48.0	18.0
A woman should obtain her husband's permission for most things						
Yes	80.2	60.7	84.9	66.2	79.1	56.9
No	17.3	38.5	14.0	33.8	18.0	41.9
Girls are usually as good as boys in studies						
Yes	77.3	92.6	78.3	88.7	77.1	95.3
No	17.3	3.9	16.3	5.6	17.1	2.6
Boys should do as much domestic work as girls						
Yes	62.4	59.8	63.0	51.4	62.7	65.7
No	36.9	39.9	35.9	47.9	36.5	34.1
Girls who dress provocatively deserve to be teased						
Yes	59.5	53.6	63.0	55.2	58.2	52.4
No	33.3	43.1	31.5	41.3	34.4	44.5
Number of respondents	**1,039**	**2,581**	**547**	**1,136**	**833**	**1,445**
Rural						
Educating boys is more important than educating girls						
Yes	20.5	9.0	17.8	10.5	21.2	5.9
No	77.1	86.6	79.6	84.2	77.0	91.8
Husband alone/mainly should decide about spending money						
Yes	34.4	18.0	40.5	19.7	31.3	14.3
No	60.1	80.5	58.1	79.4	61.6	82.8
Girls should be allowed to decide about their own marriage						
Yes	34.1	63.3	32.4	61.9	34.7	66.4
No	61.2	29.9	63.6	31.1	60.2	27.4
A woman should obtain her husband's permission for most things						
Yes	82.4	69.2	84.7	71.6	80.9	64.3
No	14.1	29.9	14.4	27.7	14.5	34.6
Girls are usually as good as boys in studies						
Yes	70.7	82.6	72.3	80.7	72.0	86.7
No	22.0	7.6	17.4	8.0	22.8	7.0
Boys should do as much domestic work as girls						
Yes	50.1	44.3	50.9	42.7	51.7	47.8
No	47.4	55.0	47.5	56.6	45.1	51.7
Girls who dress provocatively deserve to be teased						
Yes	54.1	55.0	53.4	56.9	54.1	50.8
No	35.2	36.2	35.9	34.2	35.0	40.7
Number of respondents	**903**	**2,948**	**568**	**1,205**	**659**	**1,743**

Note: All Ns are unweighted. Column totals may not equal 100% due to missing cases, "don't know" or "unsure" responses.

Young men were consistently more likely than young women to report unequal gender role attitudes in relation to most topics. For example, even though large proportions of youth believed that husbands alone should not be the main decision-makers with regard to spending money, more young men than women (34% and 17%, respectively) expressed the traditional attitude that husbands alone should decide about spending money. Similarly, 59% of young men compared to 29% of young women reported that girls should not be allowed to make marriage-related decisions. The issues on which young men were more likely than or as

Figure 7.3: Percentage of youth who expressed egalitarian gender role attitudes on selected issues, Bihar, 2007



likely as young women to express egalitarian views were whether boys should do as much domestic work as girls (52% and 46% of young men and women agreed with the statement, respectively) and whether girls who dress provocatively deserve to be teased (35% of young men and 37% of young women disagreed with the statement).

No differences by marital status were evident among young men; however among young women, the unmarried reported more egalitarian attitudes than the married on almost all statements. Rural-urban differences were consistently observed, with urban youth more likely to reveal gender egalitarian attitudes than their rural counterparts. The only exception was that young men in urban settings were more likely than their rural counterparts to agree that girls who dress provocatively deserve to be teased (60% and 54%, respectively).

7.5 Attitudes towards wife beating

Youth were asked a number of questions to gauge the extent to which beating one's wife was perceived to be an acceptable behaviour. Young people were asked whether they agreed that wife beating was a way of expressing love, and whether wife beating was justified in four situations, including refusal to have sex with the husband. Findings are presented in Table 7.7. Although large proportions of youth (76% of young men and 84% of young women) disagreed that wife beating was a sign of love, it is notable that 10–12% of young people did conform to this view. Differences by marital status and residence were negligible.

Findings show, moreover, that over two-fifths of young men (44%) and about three-fifths of young women (58%) did justify wife beating. While marital status differences were muted among young men, a somewhat larger percentage of married than unmarried young women perceived that wife beating was justified in at least one of the four situations about which information was sought (61% versus 53%). Rural-urban differences suggest that considerably more rural than urban youth, particularly young women, justified wife beating.

The situations under which young people were most likely to perceive that wife beating was justified were relatively similar among young men and women. A similar proportion of young men (30% each) perceived wife beating was justified in three of the four situations posed, namely, if the husband suspected that the wife had been unfaithful, if the wife went out without telling her husband and if the wife disagreed with her husband's opinion. A slightly larger proportion of young women (34–40%) justified wife beating in these situations. Both young men and women were least likely to justify wife beating if a woman refused to have sexual relations with her husband (12% and 7% among young men and women, respectively). Marital status differences were typically muted among young men, but unmarried women were less likely than the married to justify wife-beating in at least two of the four situations. Rural-urban differences were wide and consistent: a larger percentage of rural than urban youth agreed that wife beating was justified in each of the four situations posed.

Table 7.7: Attitudes towards wife beating

Percent distribution of youth by attitudes towards wife beating in selected situations, according to residence, Bihar, 2007

Attitudes towards wife beating (%)	M 15–24	W 15–24	MM 15–29	MW 15–24	UM 15–24	UW 15–24
Combined						
Beating wife means husband loves her						
Agree	10.2	11.7	13.9	12.5	9.5	10.5
Disagree	75.9	84.3	78.2	84.9	74.8	82.7
Don't know/can't say	13.9	4.0	7.4	2.6	15.8	6.8
Beating wife is justified if:						
Husband suspects wife has been unfaithful						
Yes	30.1	34.2	34.2	38.0	29.6	27.7
No	65.5	64.8	64.0	61.7	64.6	69.9
Don't know/can't say	4.4	1.0	1.6	0.3	5.8	2.3
Wife goes out without telling husband						
Yes	29.5	39.3	31.6	41.1	29.8	36.4
No	64.0	59.8	63.2	58.4	63.6	61.7
Don't know/can't say	6.4	0.9	5.0	0.4	6.6	1.8
Wife disagrees with husband's opinion						
Yes	30.0	38.8	30.7	39.9	30.4	37.4
No	63.2	59.3	64.2	59.1	62.1	59.2
Don't know/can't say	6.8	1.8	4.8	1.1	7.5	3.4
Wife refuses to have sexual relations with husband						
Yes	12.2	6.5	11.8	7.0	12.2	5.8
No	77.6	89.0	86.3	91.5	74.6	84.1
Don't know/can't say	10.2	4.4	1.7	1.5	13.2	10.0
Believed that wife beating is justified in at least one of the above situations	**44.3**	**57.7**	**46.5**	**60.5**	**44.2**	**53.3**
Number of respondents	**1,942**	**5,529**	**1,115**	**2,341**	**1,492**	**3,188**

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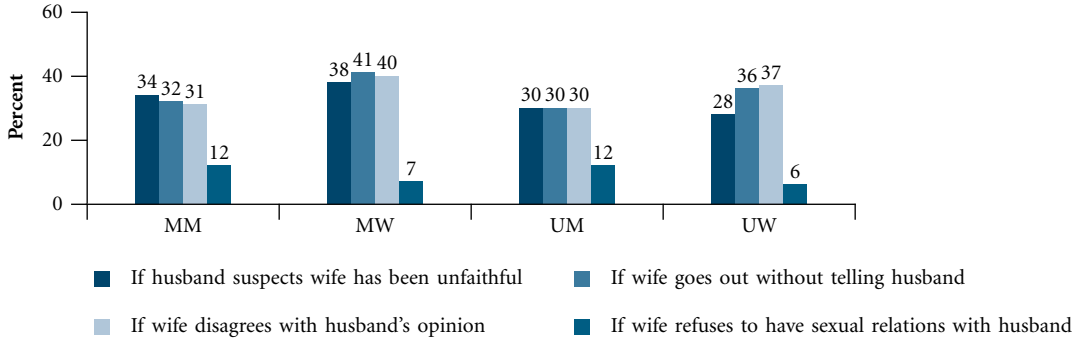
Table 7.7: (Cont'd)

Attitudes towards wife beating (%)	M 15–24	W 15–24	MM 15–29	MW 15–24	UM 15–24	UW 15–24
Urban						
Beating wife means husband loves her						
Agree	11.1	8.6	11.0	9.9	11.1	7.7
Disagree	77.8	88.2	83.5	88.7	77.5	88.1
Don't know/can't say	10.8	3.0	4.4	1.4	11.5	4.0
Beating wife is justified if:						
Husband suspects wife has been unfaithful						
Yes	25.1	24.0	29.3	29.4	24.6	20.2
No	69.9	75.4	68.5	70.6	70.1	78.7
Don't know/can't say	5.0	0.6	2.2	0.0	5.3	1.0
Wife goes out without telling husband						
Yes	21.1	29.0	26.4	33.1	20.9	25.9
No	72.0	70.3	69.2	66.9	72.1	72.9
Don't know/can't say	6.8	0.6	4.4	0.0	7.0	1.2
Wife disagrees with husband's opinion						
Yes	21.9	30.6	25.8	33.6	21.6	28.5
No	71.0	68.3	69.9	65.7	71.0	69.9
Don't know/can't say	7.2	1.1	4.3	0.7	7.3	1.6
Wife refuses to have sexual relations with husband						
Yes	8.6	3.8	7.6	4.2	9.0	3.6
No	81.7	92.5	90.2	95.1	80.7	90.5
Don't know/can't say	9.7	3.8	2.2	0.7	10.2	5.9
Believed that wife beating is justified in at least one of the above situations	**38.7**	**46.1**	**42.4**	**52.1**	**38.5**	**41.9**
Number of respondents	**1,039**	**2,581**	**547**	**1,136**	**833**	**1,445**
Rural						
Beating wife means husband loves her						
Agree	10.0	12.1	14.1	12.7	9.1	11.0
Disagree	75.6	83.7	77.9	84.7	74.3	81.7
Don't know/can't say	14.4	4.1	7.5	2.6	16.5	7.2
Beating wife is justified if:						
Husband suspects wife has been unfaithful						
Yes	30.9	35.5	34.6	38.6	30.6	29.1
No	64.7	63.4	63.6	61.1	63.5	68.3
Don't know/can't say	4.3	1.1	1.6	0.4	5.9	2.5
Wife goes out without telling husband						
Yes	30.9	40.6	32.0	41.7	31.7	38.3
No	62.7	58.5	62.8	57.9	61.8	59.7
Don't know/can't say	6.4	0.9	5.1	0.5	6.5	1.9
Wife disagrees with husband's opinion						
Yes	31.4	39.9	31.2	40.3	32.1	39.0
No	61.9	58.2	63.7	58.6	60.3	57.2
Don't know/can't say	6.7	1.9	5.0	1.1	7.5	3.7
Wife refuses to have sexual relations with husband						
Yes	12.8	6.9	12.2	7.1	12.8	6.3
No	76.9	88.6	85.9	91.2	73.4	82.9
Don't know/can't say	10.3	4.5	1.7	1.6	13.8	10.7
Believed that wife beating is justified in at least one of the above situations	**45.2**	**59.3**	**46.9**	**61.1**	**45.3**	**55.5**
Number of respondents	**903**	**2,948**	**568**	**1,205**	**659**	**1,743**

Note: All Ns are unweighted. Column totals may not equal 100% due to missing cases.

Figure 7.4: Percentage of youth who believed wife beating is justified in selected situations, Bihar, 2007



7.6 Summary

Findings clearly highlight young women's extremely limited agency. For example, just one in four young women reported independent decision-making on all three issues explored in the survey, namely, decisions on choice of friends, spending money and purchase of clothes. Likewise, freedom of movement even within the village or neighbourhood was not universal among young women; only about two in three young women had the freedom to visit locations within their own village or neighbourhood unescorted. Moreover, just one in ten young women reported freedom to visit at least one place outside the village or neighbourhood and a health facility unescorted. Access to and control over financial resources tended to be limited among young women; just over two in five reported some savings and 5% owned a bank or post office savings account. Of those who owned an account, about two-fifths operated it themselves.

Also notable from the findings is the striking gender divide in all these dimensions of young people's agency. Young women were far more disadvantaged in terms of decision-making autonomy and mobility than young men. Likewise, although young women were more likely than young men to have money saved (44% and 20%, respectively), they were less likely than young men to own a bank or post office savings account (5% and 11%). Moreover, they were much less likely than their male counterparts to operate these accounts themselves (38% and 77% of those who had an account).

While young men were clearly not as disadvantaged as young women, findings indicate that many young men were also unable to exercise agency in their everyday lives. For example, only 46% of young men reported independent decision-making on all three issues explored in the survey. Similarly, young men's mobility was far from universal; for example, just 48–56% of unmarried young men were allowed to visit a place of entertainment or to attend a programme conducted outside their village or neighbourhood unescorted, and two in three were allowed to visit a health facility unescorted.

Although over two-fifths of young men and about three-fifths of young women justified wife beating in at least one situation, relatively large proportions of youth espoused egalitarian gender role attitudes on other issues explored. Even so, it is notable that young men were consistently more likely than young women to report unequal gender role attitudes on these issues.

Chapter 8

Awareness of sexual and reproductive health matters

A considerable body of research, including the NFHS (IIPS and Macro International, 2007a), has highlighted relatively low levels of awareness regarding selected sexual and reproductive health issues in both the general and youth populations. The Youth Study sought to explore awareness of a wide range of issues relating to sex, pregnancy, contraception and STI, including HIV/AIDS, as well as knowledge of laws governing age at marriage and abortion. Where possible, further questions were posed to assess the extent of in-depth awareness of these matters. Along with the results of these items, this chapter explores findings on communication about and sources of information for sexual and reproductive health matters, as well as youth perceptions and experiences of family life or sex education.

8.1 Awareness of sexual and reproductive health matters

In this section, we present evidence of the extent to which young people are aware of or hold misconceptions about various issues related to sex and pregnancy, contraception, STI and HIV.

8.1.1 Sex and pregnancy

In order to assess young people's knowledge about sex and pregnancy, the Youth Study asked youth whether they agreed or disagreed with four statements: (a) a woman can get pregnant after kissing or hugging; (b) a woman is most likely to get pregnant if she has sex half-way between her periods; (c) a woman has to bleed at first intercourse; and (d) a woman can get pregnant at first sex. Given the prevalence of sex-selective abortions in the country (Bhat and Zavier, 2007; Dagar, 2007), we also asked whether youth were aware of any tests that could determine the sex of the foetus.

Findings, presented in Table 8.1, clearly suggest that awareness of sex- and pregnancy-related matters was limited. The one exception was knowledge that women cannot become pregnant after kissing or hugging; 97% of young men and women were aware of this. Even so, it is notable that 8% of unmarried young women were either unsure or believed it to be possible.

Awareness of other matters was reported by far smaller proportions of youth and considerable differences were evident by sex, marital status and rural-urban residence of respondents. Just one-third of young men and one-fifth of young women were aware that women are most likely to become pregnant if they engage in sexual relations mid-cycle. More married than unmarried youth (58% and 24% of married and unmarried young men, respectively, and 28% and 8% of married and unmarried young women, respectively) reported correct knowledge of this issue (see Figure 8.1).Differences by rural-urban residence were muted. When analysed separately for the married and the unmarried among young women, however, those in urban areas were more likely than those in rural areas to report knowledge of this issue.

Table 8.1: Awareness of sex- and pregnancy-related matters

Percent distribution of youth by awareness of sex- and pregnancy-related matters, according to residence, Bihar, 2007

Awareness indicators (%)	M 15–24	W 15–24	MM 15–29	MW 15–24	UM 15–24	UW 15–24
Combined						
A woman can get pregnant after kissing/hugging						
True	0.2	0.5	0.4	0.5	0.3	0.5
False	97.0	96.6	99.2	99.0	96.0	91.9
Don't know/not sure	2.9	2.9	0.2	0.4	3.8	7.6
A woman is most likely to get pregnant if she has sex half-way between her periods						
True	32.2	21.1	57.8	27.7	24.2	8.4
False	12.1	7.8	17.8	10.1	10.6	3.6
Don't know/not sure	55.7	71.1	24.4	62.2	65.2	88.0
A woman has to bleed at first intercourse						
True	41.6	41.9	57.2	57.0	34.6	13.9
False	21.2	28.4	33.9	35.2	18.6	15.7
Don't know/not sure	37.1	29.7	8.9	7.8	46.8	70.4
A woman can get pregnant at first sex						
True	27.4	33.2	40.0	37.0	24.2	25.6
False	38.3	39.3	48.9	48.1	33.0	23.0
Don't know/not sure	34.2	27.5	11.1	14.9	42.8	51.5
It is possible to do a medical test to know the sex of a foetus						
True	68.5	79.6	73.3	82.0	67.6	74.3
False	13.4	7.0	12.8	6.7	13.2	7.6
Don't know/not sure	18.0	13.4	13.9	11.3	19.1	18.0
Had correct knowledge of all of the above	**3.7**	**2.1**	**6.6**	**2.7**	**2.8**	**0.8**
Number of respondents	**1,942**	**5,529**	**1,115**	**2,341**	**1,492**	**3,188**
Urban						
A woman can get pregnant after kissing/hugging						
True	0.0	0.3	0.0	0.7	0.0	0.2
False	98.2	97.2	100.0	99.3	98.4	95.5
Don't know/not sure	1.8	2.5	0.0	0.0	1.6	4.3
A woman is most likely to get pregnant if she has sex half-way between her periods						
True	31.2	23.4	62.0	37.1	27.3	13.5
False	12.9	6.9	17.4	11.2	12.7	4.0
Don't know/not sure	55.9	69.7	20.7	51.7	60.0	82.4
A woman has to bleed at first intercourse						
True	34.4	29.8	47.8	53.1	32.4	12.8
False	29.4	27.5	45.7	40.6	27.5	18.2
Don't know/not sure	36.2	42.7	6.5	6.3	40.2	69.0
A woman can get pregnant at first sex						
True	31.5	39.8	46.7	45.8	30.7	35.4
False	29.4	32.4	41.3	44.4	26.6	23.8
Don't know/not sure	39.1	27.8	12.0	9.9	42.6	40.8
It is possible to do a medical test to know the sex of a foetus						
True	80.4	87.3	83.7	88.1	80.4	86.4
False	6.4	5.5	7.6	4.9	6.1	6.1
Don't know/not sure	12.9	7.2	8.7	7.0	13.1	7.5
Had correct knowledge of all of the above	**6.1**	**4.9**	**13.0**	**7.7**	**5.3**	**2.4**
Number of respondents	**1,039**	**2,581**	**547**	**1,136**	**833**	**1,445**

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Table 8.1: (Cont'd)

Awareness indicators (%)	M 15–24	W 15–24	MM 15–29	MW 15–24	UM 15–24	UW 15–24
Rural						
A woman can get pregnant after kissing/hugging						
True	0.2	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.3	0.6
False	96.8	96.5	99.1	99.0	95.6	91.3
Don't know/not sure	3.0	2.9	0.2	0.4	4.1	8.2
A woman is most likely to get pregnant if she has sex half-way between her periods						
True	32.4	20.8	57.5	27.1	23.6	7.4
False	11.9	7.9	17.8	10.0	10.3	3.5
Don't know/not sure	55.7	71.3	24.7	62.9	66.1	89.1
A woman has to bleed at first intercourse						
True	42.8	43.4	58.1	57.3	35.0	14.1
False	19.9	28.6	32.8	34.8	16.9	15.3
Don't know/not sure	37.3	28.0	9.1	7.9	48.1	70.7
A woman can get pregnant at first sex						
True	26.8	32.4	39.4	36.4	23.0	23.8
False	39.8	40.2	49.6	48.4	34.2	22.8
Don't know/not sure	33.4	27.4	11.0	15.2	42.8	53.4
It is possible to do a medical test to know the sex of a foetus						
True	66.5	78.6	72.3	81.6	65.1	72.2
False	14.6	7.2	13.4	6.8	14.6	7.8
Don't know/not sure	18.9	14.3	14.4	11.6	20.3	20.0
Had correct knowledge of all of the above	**3.3**	**1.8**	**6.1**	**2.4**	**2.3**	**0.5**
Number of respondents	**903**	**2,948**	**568**	**1,205**	**659**	**1,743**

Note: All Ns are unweighted. Column totals may not equal 100% due to missing cases.

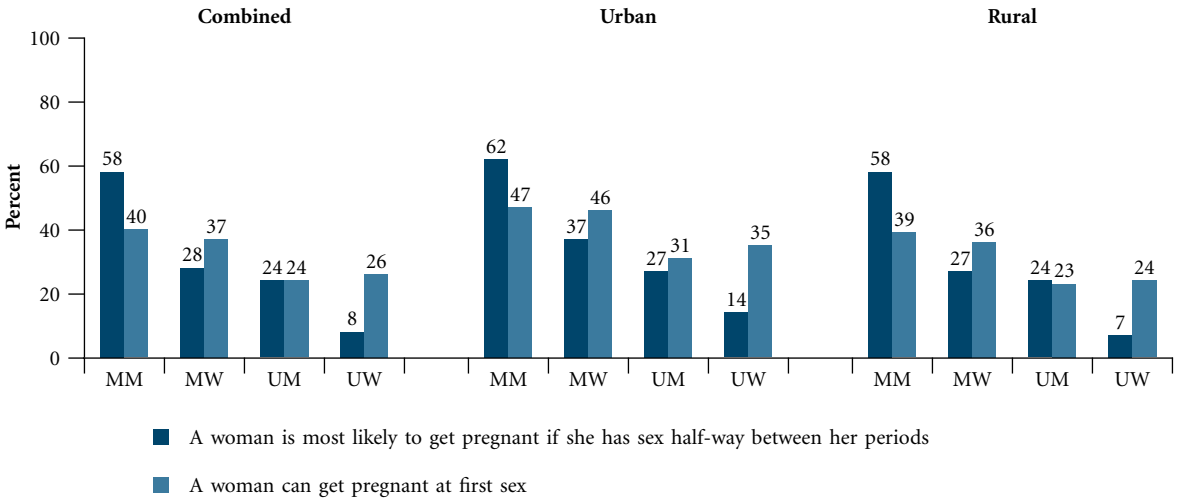
Awareness that a woman does not have to bleed at first intercourse was reported by even fewer (21–28%). Notably, two in five youth believed that a woman has to bleed at first intercourse. Marital status differences were notable, with married youth better informed than unmarried youth (34–35% compared to 16%–19%). Rural-urban differences were wide among young men, with urban young men more likely to be correctly informed about this issue than rural young men (29% versus 20%); differences were muted among young women.

Awareness that a woman can get pregnant at first sex was also limited, correctly reported by just 27–33% of youth. Again, more married than unmarried youth (37–40% compared to 24–26%), and somewhat more urban than rural youth (32–40% compared to 27–32%) reported correctly that a woman could become pregnant at first sex.

Two-thirds of young men (69%) and four-fifths of young women (80%) were aware of the availability of tests to determine the sex of the foetus. Married youth were somewhat more likely than unmarried youth to report awareness of sex determination testing. Differences by rural-urban residence were pronounced, with larger percentages of urban than rural youth reporting awareness of sex determination testing (80% and 87% of young men and women in urban areas, compared to 67% and 79%, respectively, in rural areas).

In order to examine overall knowledge regarding sex and pregnancy, a summary measure was computed that assessed the percentage of youth who were aware of all five matters, and is presented in Table 8.1.

Figure 8.1: Percentage of youth reporting awareness of selected sex- and pregnancy-related matters, according to residence, Bihar, 2007



Findings show that just 2–4% of youth had correct knowledge of all five issues. Differences by marital status and residence were modest. The only somewhat notable difference was that married youth in urban settings were more knowledgeable than married youth in rural settings (8–13% compared to 2–6%). Indeed, the highest levels of awareness of the five matters combined were reported by married young men in urban settings, among whom 13% reported awareness of all unmarried young women in rural settings, among whom just 0.5% were correctly aware of all issues; in contrast, the poorest levels of awareness were reported by five matters.

8.1.2 Socio-demographic differentials in awareness of sex- and pregnancy-related matters

Differentials in awareness, measured with respect to percentage aware of all five issues relating to sex and pregnancy discussed above, are presented in Table 8.2. Level of awareness did not differ much by background characteristics, which is not surprising given the extremely low level of awareness observed for the overall population. However, some notable differences were apparent, particularly among married youth. For example, a larger percentage of married young men belonging to general castes than others reported awareness of all five issues (18% compared to 5–6%). Findings also show a consistent positive association between education and household economic status with awareness of sex- and pregnancy-related matters. For example, awareness of all five matters increased from 1–2% among uneducated married youth to 12–18% among those with 12 or more years of schooling. Similarly, awareness increased from 3% among married young men belonging to the poorest (first) quintile to 11% among those belonging to the wealthiest (fifth) quintile; corresponding increases were mild among married young women. Similar patterns of socio-demographic differentials were, by and large, evident in both rural and urban areas. In addition, findings suggest that in urban areas, somewhat larger proportions of married young men aged 25–29 years compared to those aged 20–24, and those belonging to the Hindu religion compared to those belonging to the Muslim religion reported awareness of sex- and pregnancy-related matters.

Table 8.2: Awareness of sex- and pregnancy-related matters by selected background characteristics

Percentage of youth who had correct knowledge of all five sex- and pregnancy-related matters by selected background characteristics, according to residence, Bihar, 2007

Background characteristics (%)	M 15–24	W 15–24	MM 15–29	MW 15–24	UM 15–24	UW 15–24
Combined						
Age (years)						
15–19	2.0	1.2	2.3	1.9	2.0	0.6
20–24	6.3	3.4	6.8	3.3	5.7	2.9
25–29	NA	NA	7.2	NA	NA	NA
Religion						
Hindu	3.9	2.2	7.0	2.8	2.8	0.8
Muslim	2.2	1.5	3.7	1.9	2.9	0.8
Caste						
SC	2.5	2.0	4.7	2.6	0.8	0.4
OBC	3.1	1.9	5.8	2.5	2.4	0.5
General[1]	6.7	3.3	18.2	4.5	5.1	2.1
Educational level (years)						
None[2]	1.6	1.7	0.9	2.1	2.3	0.3
1–7	2.4	2.0	6.8	3.3	0.7	0.3
8–11	4.1	2.2	7.7	3.3	3.3	1.0
12 and above	8.4	7.2	17.6	11.7	5.8	3.9
Worked in last 12 months						
Yes	3.6	1.5	6.5	1.7	2.5	1.0
No	3.8	2.5	(15.6)	3.3	3.4	0.7
Wealth quintile						
First	3.4	1.2	2.5	1.5	2.7	0.0
Second	4.3	1.3	4.7	1.6	2.5	0.0
Third	2.4	2.2	5.4	2.7	1.1	0.9
Fourth	2.7	1.5	6.9	2.2	1.5	0.4
Fifth	5.1	3.9	10.9	6.0	4.6	1.7
Total	**3.7**	**2.1**	**6.6**	**2.7**	**2.8**	**0.8**
Urban						
Age (years)						
15–19	4.3	2.2	*	5.1	4.3	1.6
20–24	8.5	8.4	9.4	9.6	7.2	5.7
25–29	NA	NA	15.5	NA	NA	NA
Religion						
Hindu	6.1	5.0	13.9	8.5	5.5	2.3
Muslim	4.3	4.2	7.7	8.3	4.7	2.0
Caste						
SC	3.6	3.5	7.1	4.3	4.3	0.0
OBC	5.3	4.9	13.6	7.6	4.7	2.1
General[1]	7.8	5.6	16.7	11.1	7.0	4.0

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Table 8.2: (Cont'd)

Background characteristics (%)	M 15–24	W 15–24	MM 15–29	MW 15–24	UM 15–24	UW 15–24
Urban						
Educational level (years)						
None[2]	3.4	2.1	0.0	3.8	4.5	0.0
1–7	2.0	2.9	5.6	5.9	2.4	0.0
8–11	4.6	5.6	17.6	12.5	3.4	2.8
12 and above	12.9	8.8	23.8	17.6	10.9	4.8
Worked in last 12 months						
Yes	5.5	5.2	12.6	5.6	4.6	4.8
No	7.0	4.8	(20.0)	8.8	7.0	2.0
Wealth quintile						
First	*	0.0	*	(0.0)	*	*
Second	(8.3)	5.6	(0.0)	9.1	(11.1)	0.0
Third	5.9	3.8	(0.0)	6.3	(7.1)	0.0
Fourth	2.1	2.2	11.1	4.2	2.6	0.0
Fifth	7.0	5.6	17.5	10.3	6.0	3.2
Total	**6.1**	**4.9**	**13.0**	**7.7**	**5.3**	**2.4**
Rural						
Age (years)						
15–19	1.6	1.1	(2.4)	1.8	1.6	0.5
20–24	6.0	2.7	6.5	2.8	5.3	1.2
25–29	NA	NA	6.3	NA	NA	NA
Religion						
Hindu	3.6	1.9	6.5	2.5	2.3	0.5
Muslim	1.3	1.0	2.5	1.6	1.8	0.6
Caste						
SC	2.5	1.9	4.2	2.3	0.9	0.2
OBC	2.7	1.5	5.0	2.1	1.9	0.2
General[1]	6.1	2.5	18.3	3.6	4.6	1.6
Educational level (years)						
None[2]	1.0	1.7	1.0	2.0	2.6	0.4
1–7	2.2	1.9	6.9	3.1	0.5	0.3
8–11	3.9	1.2	7.0	1.9	3.3	0.5
12 and above	7.1	5.6	15.6	*	3.1	2.9
Worked in last 12 months						
Yes	3.4	1.3	5.9	1.6	2.2	0.7
No	2.9	2.0	*	2.8	2.6	0.4
Wealth quintile						
First	3.4	1.2	2.6	1.6	2.8	0.0
Second	4.0	1.2	4.9	1.7	2.0	0.0
Third	2.2	2.1	5.6	2.6	0.8	0.8
Fourth	2.8	1.4	6.5	2.1	1.6	0.4
Fifth	4.2	3.0	9.7	4.8	3.9	0.9
Total	**3.3**	**1.8**	**6.1**	**2.4**	**2.3**	**0.5**

*Note: ( ) Based on 25–49 unweighted cases. *Percentage not shown, based on fewer than 25 unweighted cases. NA: Not applicable. OBC: Other backward caste. SC: Scheduled caste. ST: Scheduled tribe. [1]Includes all those not belonging to SC, ST or OBC. [2]Includes non-literate and literate with no formal schooling.*

8.1.3 Awareness of contraceptive methods

The Youth Study explored young people's awareness of contraceptive methods in several ways. First, they were asked to list all contraceptive methods about which they had heard; second, interviewers gave respondents a brief description of a variety of non-terminal contraceptive methods not mentioned spontaneously and inquired whether the respondent had heard of each; and third, further questioning probed for specific knowledge regarding the use of oral pills, emergency contraception, condoms, the intra-uterine device (IUD) and withdrawal. Table 8.3 presents percentages of youth reporting awareness—spontaneously or on prompting—of condoms, oral contraceptives, emergency contraception, the IUD and withdrawal; and those spontaneously reporting awareness of such methods as sterilisation, implants, vaginal methods, injectables and herbal and other traditional methods. Also presented are percentages of respondents reporting correct specific knowledge of the five methods indicated above.

The vast majority of youth (93% of young men and 99% of young women) reported awareness (spontaneous or prompted) of at least one method of contraception and a similar range of youth were aware of at least one modern contraceptive method. Even so, it is notable that 8% of unmarried young men were not aware of at least one contraceptive method. The most widely known spacing methods were oral contraceptives (77% and 84% of young men and women, respectively) and condoms (90% and 62%, respectively). Fewer youth reported awareness of the IUD (32% of young men and 45% of young women), emergency contraception (10% and 4%, respectively) or vaginal methods, implants or injectables (4% and 16%, respectively). Terminal method awareness was not probed, hence, while female sterilisation was spontaneously reported by 57% of young men and 97% of young women, just 24% and 46%, respectively, spontaneously reported awareness of male sterilisation. Differences in awareness of both any method and any modern method by marital status and rural-urban residence were modest.

Compared to awareness of modern methods, awareness of traditional methods was reported by far fewer youth—8% of young men and 31% of young women. Gender differences were muted among unmarried youth, but pronounced among married youth: 45% of married young women compared to 15% of married young men reported awareness of traditional methods. We note that the surprisingly high levels of awareness of withdrawal reported by married women were corroborated by findings from the National Family Health Survey (NFHS-3) and the District Level Household Survey—Reproductive and Child Health Survey (DLHS-RCH). In contrast, it appears that awareness levels reported by married young men in the Youth Study are considerably lower than those reported by young men of similar ages in the National Family Health Survey (NFHS-3). Differences by marital status indicate that married youth, particularly young women were more likely than the unmarried to report awareness of at least one traditional method (15% versus 5% among young men and 45% versus 5% among young women). Rural-urban differences were narrow, except that married young women in urban areas were more likely than their rural counterparts to report awareness of traditional methods.

Findings also show significant gender differences in terms of awareness of individual contraceptive methods; larger percentages of young women than men were aware of most methods (oral contraceptives, IUDs, female sterilisation, male sterilisation, implants/vaginal methods/injectables and withdrawal). Men, in contrast, were more likely than women to be aware of condoms and emergency contraceptive pills. More married than unmarried youth reported awareness of most methods. Rural-urban differences show that urban youth were more likely than rural youth to be aware of most modern methods.

In order to assess the extent to which youth had correct specific knowledge of contraceptive methods, and had not just heard of various methods, the Youth Study inquired whether youth were aware of the frequency with which oral contraceptives must be consumed (daily or weekly); the number of sex acts for which one condom could be used (one); the number of hours following sex that emergency contraceptive pills could be consumed (72 hours); where the IUD is placed (uterus); and when a man practising withdrawal should pull out of a woman (prior to ejaculation). Panel B of Table 8.3 presents percentages of youth reporting correct specific knowledge of these five methods. Correct specific knowledge of at least one of these five methods was reported by 65% of all young men and 62% of all young women. Gender differences were narrow for both the overall and married samples; however, they were pronounced among the unmarried sample, among whom more young men than women reported correct specific knowledge of at least one method (62% versus 44%). More married than unmarried, and more urban than rural youth reported correct specific knowledge of at least one method.

Differentials in correct specific knowledge by sex, marital status and rural-urban residence are evident from findings presented in Table 8.3. In general, young women were more likely than young men to report correct specific knowledge of female-oriented methods such as oral contraceptives (48% compared to 26%) and the IUD (23% compared to 9%). Young men, in contrast, were considerably more likely than young women to report correct specific knowledge about condoms (62% and 30%, respectively). Notably, more young women than men reported correct specific knowledge about withdrawal (23% compared to 2%). Few young men and women had correct specific knowledge of emergency contraception (1–2%). Differences by marital status suggest that the married were typically more likely than the unmarried to report correct specific knowledge of every method (see Figure 8.2). Likewise, urban respondents were more likely than their rural counterparts to report correct specific knowledge of every modern method.

Figure 8.2: Percentage of youth who reported correct specific knowledge of oral pills and condoms, according to residence, Bihar, 2007

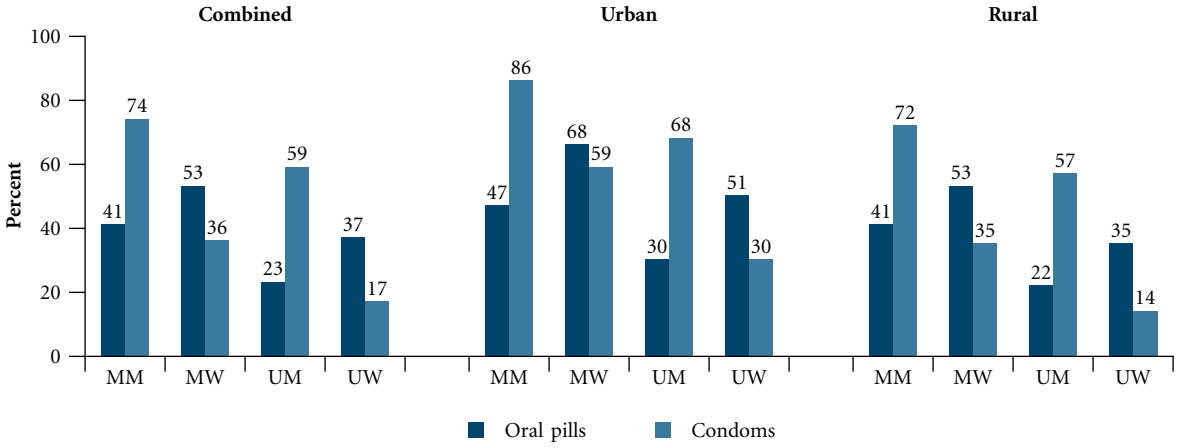

Table 8.3: Awareness of contraceptive methods

Percentage of youth who reported awareness and correct specific knowledge of various contraceptive methods, according to residence, Bihar, 2007

Awareness indicators (%)	M 15–24	W 15–24	MM 15–29	MW 15–24	UM 15–24	UW 15–24
A. Awareness						
Combined						
Any method	**93.2**	**98.8**	**97.6**	**99.6**	**91.8**	**97.1**
Any modern method	**93.2**	**98.8**	**97.5**	**99.6**	**91.8**	**97.1**
Oral pills	77.2	84.0	86.5	86.8	75.4	78.1
Emergency contraceptive pills	9.6	3.5	14.9	3.8	9.3	2.8
Condom	89.6	62.0	92.5	67.2	88.5	50.5
IUD	31.9	45.0	38.4	48.9	32.3	36.3
Female sterilisation	57.3	97.2	67.3	98.0	54.8	95.5
Male sterilisation	23.7	46.1	29.6	50.1	23.2	38.1
Implant/vaginal methods/injectables	3.8	15.7	7.1	18.2	3.8	10.8
Any traditional method	**7.5**	**31.4**	**14.9**	**45.3**	**5.3**	**5.2**
Withdrawal	3.4	28.4	6.4	42.2	2.9	2.4
Safe period	4.0	8.0	7.9	10.6	2.5	2.8
Traditional/herbal methods	0.6	0.8	2.3	1.0	0.3	0.5
Number of respondents	**1,942**	**5,529**	**1,115**	**2,341**	**1,492**	**3,188**
Urban						
Any method	**97.8**	**99.4**	**98.9**	**100.0**	**97.6**	**99.2**
Any modern method	**97.8**	**99.4**	**98.9**	**100.0**	**97.6**	**99.2**
Oral pills	88.2	92.9	94.6	94.4	87.3	91.9
Emergency contraceptive pills	12.2	6.3	19.6	7.0	11.5	5.5
Condom	96.8	82.5	97.8	85.9	96.7	80.2
IUD	46.1	63.3	55.4	74.1	45.7	55.5
Female sterilisation	58.1	98.4	74.2	98.6	56.1	98.0
Male sterilisation	31.9	53.2	40.2	61.5	31.0	47.1
Implant/vaginal methods/injectables	5.0	21.0	9.8	29.6	4.9	14.8
Any traditional method	**6.1**	**28.9**	**17.4**	**57.0**	**5.3**	**8.7**
Withdrawal	4.3	23.4	10.9	51.4	4.1	3.4
Safe period	1.8	12.4	9.7	21.7	1.2	5.9
Traditional/herbal methods	0.0	0.6	0.0	0.7	0.0	0.6
Number of respondents	**1,039**	**2,581**	**547**	**1,136**	**833**	**1,445**
Rural						
Any method	**92.5**	**98.7**	**97.5**	**99.6**	**90.6**	**96.8**
Any modern method	**92.5**	**98.7**	**97.3**	**99.6**	**90.6**	**96.8**
Oral pills	75.3	82.8	85.7	86.3	73.0	75.5
Emergency contraceptive pills	9.1	3.2	14.5	3.6	8.8	2.2
Condom	88.4	59.3	92.0	66.0	86.9	45.1
IUD	29.5	42.6	36.9	47.2	29.7	32.8
Female sterilisation	57.2	97.0	66.7	97.9	54.5	95.0
Male sterilisation	22.3	45.2	28.6	49.3	21.7	36.5
Implant/vaginal methods/injectables	3.6	15.0	6.8	17.4	3.5	10.0
Any traditional method	**7.8**	**31.7**	**14.7**	**44.5**	**5.4**	**4.5**
Withdrawal	3.2	29.1	6.1	41.7	2.7	2.3
Safe period	4.4	7.5	7.7	10.0	2.6	2.3
Traditional/herbal methods	0.7	0.8	2.5	1.0	0.3	0.4
Number of respondents	**903**	**2,948**	**568**	**1,205**	**659**	**1,743**

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Table 8.3: (Cont'd)

Awareness indicators (%)	M 15–24	W 15–24	MM 15–29	MW 15–24	UM 15–24	UW 15–24
B. Correct specific knowledge[1]						
Combined						
Any method	**65.1**	**62.2**	**77.1**	**71.6**	**61.6**	**43.8**
At least one modern method	**64.9**	**57.3**	**76.8**	**64.0**	**61.4**	**43.7**
Oral pills	26.2	48.1	41.2	53.4	23.1	37.3
Emergency contraceptive pills	2.2	1.0	3.0	1.2	2.2	0.6
Condoms	62.1	29.9	73.5	36.4	58.7	16.7
IUD	9.0	22.6	17.0	27.3	8.4	12.9
Any traditional method						
Withdrawal	2.2	22.6	5.3	33.8	1.7	1.3
Number of respondents	**1,942**	**5,529**	**1,115**	**2,341**	**1,492**	**3,188**
Urban						
Any method	**71.7**	**71.4**	**87.1**	**85.2**	**69.4**	**61.3**
At least one modern method	**71.7**	**69.5**	**87.0**	**81.0**	**69.4**	**61.1**
Oral pills	31.8	57.8	46.7	67.6	29.5	50.7
Emergency contraceptive pills	3.6	2.8	4.3	3.5	3.3	2.2
Condoms	70.3	42.1	86.0	58.7	68.0	30.0
IUD	15.1	34.3	30.4	47.2	13.9	24.9
Any traditional method						
Withdrawal	3.2	19.8	8.7	44.4	2.9	2.0
Number of respondents	**1,039**	**2,581**	**547**	**1,136**	**833**	**1,445**
Rural						
Any method	**64.0**	**61.0**	**76.1**	**70.7**	**60.1**	**40.5**
At least one modern method	**63.8**	**55.7**	**75.9**	**62.9**	**59.8**	**40.5**
Oral pills	25.3	46.9	40.7	52.5	21.8	34.9
Emergency contraceptive pills	2.0	0.8	2.9	1.0	2.0	0.3
Condoms	60.7	28.3	72.3	34.9	56.9	14.3
IUD	8.0	21.1	15.7	26.0	7.4	10.7
Any traditional method						
Withdrawal	2.1	22.9	5.0	33.2	1.4	1.3
Number of respondents	**903**	**2,948**	**568**	**1,205**	**659**	**1,743**

Note: All Ns are unweighted. [1]Correct specific knowledge was assessed for oral pills, emergency contraceptive pills, condoms, IUD and withdrawal. The following questions were asked (correct answers in brackets)—Oral pills: How often should a woman take pills? [Daily/Weekly]; Emergency contraceptive pills: How soon after sexual intercourse should these pills be taken? [72 hours]; Condoms: For how many acts of sexual intercourse can one condom be used? [One]; IUD: Where is the IUD placed? [Uterus]; Withdrawal: When should a man pull out of a woman during sexual intercourse? [Prior to ejaculation].

8.1.4 Condom-related perceptions

Among those who reported awareness of condoms, the Youth Study probed youth who reported awareness of three specific aspects of this method, namely, whether condoms are a suitable method for preventing pregnancy, whether condoms can slip off the man and disappear inside the woman's body and whether condoms reduce sexual pleasure. Findings, presented in Table 8.4, show that 72–78% agreed that condoms were a suitable method for preventing pregnancy, but that awareness of other issues was reported by many fewer. Just 33% and 25% of young men and women were aware that condoms cannot disappear into the woman's body and just 18–20% of youth felt that condoms do not reduce sexual pleasure. Notably, three-fifths of young men and two-thirds of young women reported that they were unsure about these two aspects.

Table 8.4: Perceptions of selected issues related to condom use

Percent distribution of youth by their perceptions of condom use, according to residence, Bihar, 2007

Perceptions (%)	M 15–24	W 15–24	MM 15–29	MW 15–24	UM 15–24	UW 15–24
Combined						
Condoms are a suitable method for preventing pregnancy						
Agree	71.5	78.3	76.9	82.8	69.5	67.4
Disagree	7.1	4.0	9.2	4.3	6.8	3.2
Don't know/can't say	21.4	17.5	13.7	12.7	23.6	29.1
Condoms can slip off a man and disappear inside a woman's body						
Agree	4.7	8.5	9.4	10.3	4.1	4.0
Disagree	32.9	25.1	44.4	29.8	29.4	13.0
Don't know/can't say	62.3	66.2	46.0	59.8	66.3	82.6
Condoms reduce sexual pleasure						
Agree	20.3	12.9	31.4	16.3	16.2	4.7
Disagree	18.1	19.9	28.5	22.7	15.9	12.7
Don't know/can't say	61.5	66.9	39.9	60.9	67.9	82.2
Number aware of condoms	**1,804**	**3,701**	**1,057**	**1,772**	**1,379**	**1,929**
Urban						
Condoms are a suitable method for preventing pregnancy						
Agree	74.2	76.0	82.2	86.9	73.0	67.7
Disagree	7.7	3.2	8.9	4.1	7.2	2.5
Don't know/can't say	18.1	20.6	8.9	9.0	19.8	29.5
Condoms can slip off a man and disappear inside a woman's body						
Agree	7.0	7.6	11.1	12.3	6.4	4.3
Disagree	35.8	27.0	55.6	41.8	32.6	15.4
Don't know/can't say	57.2	65.2	33.3	45.9	61.0	80.1
Condoms reduce sexual pleasure						
Agree	21.0	10.1	35.2	18.0	19.0	4.0
Disagree	23.2	23.0	35.2	33.6	21.1	14.9
Don't know/can't say	55.7	66.7	29.7	48.4	59.9	80.8
Number aware of condoms	**1,007**	**2,127**	**536**	**976**	**806**	**1,151**
Rural						
Condoms are a suitable method for preventing pregnancy						
Agree	70.9	78.7	76.4	82.5	68.7	67.3
Disagree	7.1	4.1	9.3	4.3	6.7	3.5
Don't know/can't say	22.0	16.9	14.1	13.0	24.5	29.0
Condoms can slip off a man and disappear inside a woman's body						
Agree	4.3	8.6	9.4	10.1	3.5	3.9
Disagree	32.3	24.7	43.3	28.7	28.8	12.3
Don't know/can't say	63.2	66.4	47.2	60.9	67.5	83.5
Condoms reduce sexual pleasure						
Agree	20.3	13.4	31.0	16.1	15.6	4.9
Disagree	17.2	19.4	27.9	21.7	14.8	11.9
Don't know/can't say	62.5	67.0	40.8	62.0	69.6	82.7
Number aware of condoms	**797**	**1,574**	**521**	**796**	**573**	**778**

Note: All Ns are unweighted. Column totals may not equal 100% due to missing cases.

Marital status differences suggest that the married were better informed about condoms than were the unmarried. For example, 44% of married young men compared to 29% of unmarried young men were aware that condoms cannot disappear into the woman's body; the corresponding percentages among young women were 30% and 13%, respectively. Rural-urban differences were negligible. However when examined separately for married and unmarried youth in rural and urban settings, findings suggest that married youth in urban areas were better informed about condoms than their rural counterparts.

8.1.5 Awareness of contraception prior to marriage

Married youth were specifically asked whether they had been aware of contraception or had known where to obtain contraceptives prior to their marriage. Findings, presented in Table 8.5, suggest that of those who were aware of at least one method of contraception at the time of interview, just three-fifths of young men (59%) compared to one-third of young women (33%) had been aware of any contraceptive method before marriage. More urban than rural youth had been aware of any contraceptive method before marriage (69% and 58% of urban and rural young men, respectively; and 49% and 32% of urban and rural young women, respectively). Somewhat fewer married youth knew, before marriage, about where to obtain contraceptives—53% of young men and 24% of young women. Rural-urban differentials, noted above, persisted.

Table 8.5: Awareness of contraception prior to marriage

Percentage of married youth aware of any contraceptive method prior to marriage and percentage aware of a source of contraceptive supplies at that time, according to residence, Bihar, 2007

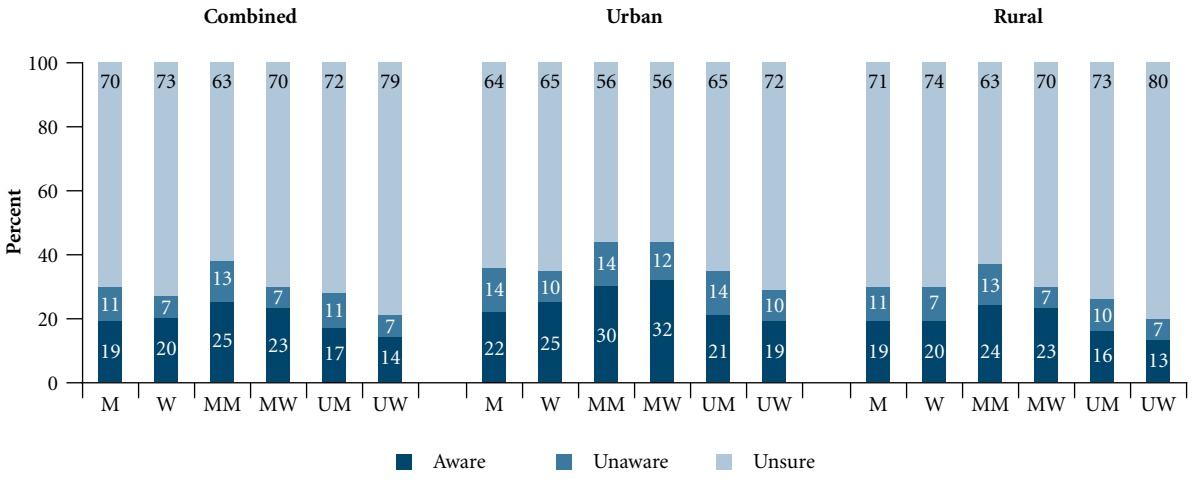
Knowledge (%)	MM 15–29	MW 15–24	MM 15–29	MW 15–24	MM 15–29	MW 15–24
	Combined		Urban		Rural	
Aware of any contraceptive method before marriage	58.5	33.2	69.2	48.6	57.5	32.3
Aware of a contraceptive source before marriage	52.7	24.0	67.4	37.3	51.4	23.2
Number currently aware of at least one contraceptive method	**1,096**	**2,334**	**543**	**1,134**	**553**	**1,200**

Note: All Ns are unweighted.

8.1.6 Awareness of medical abortion

Given that medical abortion has been legal since 2002, youth were asked if they were aware of "any pills" that a woman could take to terminate a pregnancy. As evident from Figure 8.3, one-fifth of youth reported that they were aware of such a method (since we did not probe further, some of these positive responses may not have been specifically referring to the mifepristone-misoprostol combination but rather to the variety of herbal and ayurvedic pills and other home remedies available). As many as 70–73% of young men and women reported that they were unsure whether such a means of inducing abortion existed. More married than unmarried youth were aware of medical abortion (25% and 17% among young men and 23% and 14% among young women). Rural-urban differences were modest for the overall sample; however when analysed separately for married and unmarried youth in urban and rural areas, the urban youth were somewhat more likely than their rural counterparts to report awareness.

Figure 8.3: Percent distribution of youth by awareness of medical abortion, according to residence, Bihar, 2007



Note: Percentages may not equal 100.0 because of rounding.

8.1.7 Awareness of sexually transmitted infections (STIs) and HIV/AIDS

The Youth Study inquired whether youth had ever heard of infections that were transmitted through sexual contact. Findings, presented in Table 8.6, suggest that awareness of STIs other than HIV/AIDS was extremely limited. Indeed, just 11–12% of youth reported awareness of STIs. Differences by sex and residence were negligible; however, married youth were more likely than unmarried youth to be aware of STIs. Such differences were more pronounced among young women.

Among those who were aware of STIs other than HIV, awareness of at least one symptom of infection was far from universal, particularly among young men: just 37% of young men and 87% of young women could identify at least one such symptom; we note that the symptom most likely to be indicated by young women was vaginal discharge. This wide gender difference may be attributed to the finding that large proportions of young women (69%) reported awareness of vaginal discharge as a symptom of infection, compared to just 19% of young men (not presented in tabular form). More married than unmarried youth, particularly among young women could identify at least one symptom (45% versus 33% among young men and 90% versus 62% among young women) and the patterns were quite similar among urban and rural respondents. Rural-urban differences differed across young men and women. Among young men, somewhat more urban than rural young men, irrespective of marital status, were aware of at least one symptom (46% versus 35%). Among young women, the patterns differed between the married and the unmarried. Among the married, more rural than urban women were aware of at least one symptom (91% versus 76%). In contrast among the unmarried, a reverse pattern was evident (59% versus 71%).

Questions exploring young people's awareness of HIV/AIDS were adapted from those used in the NFHS (IIPS and Macro International, 2007b). Findings, presented in Table 8.6, show that 87% of young men, compared to 47% of young women, had heard of HIV/AIDS (almost identical to levels—83% and 44%, respectively—reported in NFHS-3; IIPS and Macro International, 2008). Differences by marital status were muted among young men, but apparent among young women, among whom more unmarried than married respondents reported awareness of HIV/AIDS, irrespective of residence (53% versus 43%). Urban respondents were more likely than their rural counterparts to report HIV/AIDS awareness, and the differences were much wider among young women (96% versus 86% among young men, and 79% versus 43% among young women).

Table 8.6: Awareness of STIs and HIV/AIDS

Percent distribution of youth who had heard of and had specific knowledge about STIs and HIV/AIDS, according to residence, Bihar, 2007

Awareness among young men (%)	M 15–24	MM 15–29	UM 15–24	M 15–24	MM 15–29	UM 15–24	M 15–24	MM 15–29	UM 15–24
	Combined			Urban			Rural		
Heard about STIs[1]	11.4	18.9	10.6	14.0	23.9	12.7	11.0	18.5	10.1
Number of respondents	**1,942**	**1,115**	**1,492**	**1,039**	**547**	**833**	**903**	**568**	**659**
Could identify at least one symptom of STIs	36.6	44.5	32.9	46.2	54.5	41.9	34.6	43.1	30.2
Number who had heard about STIs	**249**	**237**	**173**	**151**	**134**	**107**	**98**	**103**	**66**
Heard about HIV/AIDS	87.3	86.5	87.7	95.7	95.7	95.9	85.9	85.7	86.0
Number of respondents	**1,942**	**1,115**	**1,492**	**1,039**	**547**	**833**	**903**	**568**	**659**
Of respondents who had heard about HIV/AIDS, those reporting that:									
One can reduce one's chances of getting HIV by having a single sexual partner	81.2	86.6	79.7	83.5	87.5	83.0	80.9	86.5	79.0
One can reduce one's chances of getting HIV by consistent use of condoms	76.4	80.7	74.8	81.3	85.1	81.2	75.5	80.4	73.4
One cannot get HIV through mosquito bites	51.9	49.0	53.1	64.4	58.0	65.1	49.6	48.1	50.5
One cannot get HIV by sharing food with an HIV-positive person	68.9	64.6	69.6	82.4	79.3	82.1	66.4	63.1	66.9
One cannot get HIV by hugging an HIV-positive person	75.9	74.8	75.8	85.4	80.7	85.5	74.2	74.0	73.7
One cannot tell if a person is HIV-positive by just looking at him/her	82.6	80.4	83.6	87.3	86.2	87.2	81.7	79.8	82.8
Number who had heard about HIV/AIDS	**1,768**	**1,004**	**1,366**	**993**	**519**	**799**	**775**	**485**	**567**
Awareness among young women (%)	**W 15–24**	**MW 15–24**	**UW 15–24**	**W 15–24**	**MW 15–24**	**UW 15–24**	**W 15–24**	**MW 15–24**	**UW 15–24**
	Combined			Urban			Rural		
Heard about STIs[1]	11.6	15.8	3.7	10.0	14.1	6.9	11.8	15.9	3.1
Number of respondents	**5,529**	**2,341**	**3,188**	**2,581**	**1,136**	**1,445**	**2,948**	**1,205**	**1,743**
Could identify at least one symptom of STIs	86.7	90.0	62.4	74.6	76.2	70.6	88.0	90.5	59.0
Number who had heard about STIs	**508**	**356**	**152**	**260**	**162**	**98**	**248**	**194**	**54**
Heard about HIV/AIDS	46.9	42.6	52.8	79.3	71.1	85.3	42.7	40.8	46.8
Number of respondents	**5,529**	**2,341**	**3,188**	**2,584**	**1,136**	**1,445**	**2,498**	**1,205**	**1,743**
Of respondents who had heard about HIV/AIDS, those reporting that:									
One can reduce one's chances of getting HIV by having single sexual partner	80.0	82.5	75.6	85.3	90.0	82.5	78.7	81.7	73.3
One can reduce one's chances of getting HIV by consistent use of condoms	58.1	58.7	56.0	69.2	73.3	66.8	55.4	57.0	52.4
One cannot get HIV through mosquito bites	56.3	53.4	59.6	68.5	65.0	70.9	53.4	52.1	55.8
One cannot get HIV by sharing food with an HIV-positive person	66.9	61.6	73.5	81.0	78.0	82.9	63.5	59.9	70.3
One cannot get HIV by hugging an HIV-positive person	79.7	76.2	84.4	87.7	86.1	88.9	77.8	75.0	82.9
One cannot tell if a person is HIV-positive by just looking at him/her	89.9	88.6	91.6	94.3	93.1	95.0	88.9	88.1	90.4
Number who had heard about HIV/AIDS	**3,334**	**1,299**	**2,035**	**2,032**	**805**	**1,227**	**1,302**	**494**	**808**

Note: All Ns are unweighted. [1]*Other than HIV.*

Among those who reported awareness of HIV/AIDS, knowledge of specific aspects of the disease was by no means complete. For example, just 80–81% of youth who had heard of HIV/AIDS were aware that one could reduce the chances of getting HIV by being faithful to a single partner. Awareness that one can reduce the chances of contracting HIV by using a condom every time one has sex was reported by 76% of young men and 58% of young women. Differences by marital status were modest, but consistently suggested that more married than unmarried youth reported awareness of staying faithful to a single partner and condom use as ways of reducing HIV transmission. These differences persisted among young men and women in both rural and urban settings. Rural-urban differences were also evident; more urban than rural youth reported awareness of both ways of reducing HIV transmission.

Misconceptions about modes of transmission were prevalent among substantial proportion of youth who reported awareness of HIV. For example, among those aware of HIV/AIDS, only 52% of young men and 56% of young women knew that one cannot get HIV through mosquito bites and 69% of young men and 67% of young women knew that one could not acquire HIV by sharing food with an HIV infected person. Differences by marital status were modest among young men, but among young women, more married than unmarried held these misconceptions. For example, only 62% of married young women compared to 74% of unmarried young women knew that one could not acquire HIV by sharing food with an HIV infected person. Rural-urban differences were modest, but more rural than urban youth were consistently observed to hold these misconceptions.

8.1.8 Comprehensive awareness of HIV/AIDS

We measured comprehensive awareness of HIV/AIDS on the basis of information obtained regarding respondents' knowledge of HIV prevention and transmission. Comprehensive awareness is defined as knowledge of two ways of preventing HIV (specifically, condom use and single partner relations), rejection of common misconceptions about HIV transmission (namely, that HIV can be transmitted through mosquito bites, sharing food or hugging) and awareness that one cannot tell by looking at a person whether he or she has HIV. Findings are presented in Table 8.7 and suggest limited comprehensive awareness of HIV/AIDS and wide variation by sex and rural-urban residence. For example, while 28% of young men reported comprehensive awareness, only 15% of young women did so. Marital status differences were muted among young men; however, among young women, a somewhat larger percentage of the unmarried than the married reported comprehensive awareness (18% versus 13%). Likewise, urban youth were far more likely to report comprehensive awareness than rural youth. While 42% and 37% of young men and women in urban settings, respectively, reported comprehensive awareness, just 25% and 13% of young men and women, respectively, in rural settings did so.

Comprehensive awareness of HIV/AIDS was greater among older, better educated, and economically better off youth than others. For example, as shown in Figure 8.4a, 12% of married young men with no formal education displayed comprehensive HIV/AIDS awareness, compared to 55% of those with 12 or more years of education; comprehensive HIV/AIDS awareness was reported likewise by 3% of married young women with no education compared to 68% of those with 12 or more years of education. Likewise, Figure 8.4b shows that comprehensive awareness increased from 9% among unmarried young men in the poorest (first) wealth quintile to 41% among those in the wealthiest (fifth) quintile, and from 4% to 38%, respectively, among unmarried young women. While differentials by religion were inconsistent, caste-wise differences indicate that comprehensive awareness of HIV/AIDS was greater among youth belonging to general castes compared to those belonging to other castes and these differences were wider among young women than men. Differences by current economic activity indicate that those not engaged in any economic activity were better informed about HIV/AIDS than those who were engaged in work (33% and 26%, respectively, among young men, and

Table 8.7: Comprehensive knowledge of HIV/AIDS by selected background characteristics

Percentage of youth who had comprehensive knowledge of HIV/AIDS by selected background characteristics, according to residence, Bihar, 2007

Background characteristics (%)	M 15–24	W 15–24	MM 15–29	MW 15–24	UM 15–24	UW 15–24
Combined						
Age (years)						
15–19	24.5	13.4	15.1	9.7	25.2	15.8
20–24	33.2	18.3	30.9	15.8	36.0	41.4
25–29	NA	NA	26.1	NA	NA	NA
Religion						
Hindu	27.0	15.6	27.0	12.9	27.2	19.4
Muslim	32.6	14.1	26.7	15.0	29.8	12.2
Caste						
SC	22.0	8.5	23.2	8.6	21.8	7.4
OBC	26.8	13.9	26.9	12.1	25.9	15.9
General[1]	35.6	32.0	40.2	32.7	34.7	30.3
Educational level (years)						
None[2]	9.2	3.3	12.2	3.4	5.1	2.6
1–7	13.3	14.5	20.5	19.2	9.8	8.5
8–11	36.1	36.3	36.9	41.5	35.2	31.5
12 and above	59.8	65.6	55.0	68.3	60.2	64.0
Worked in last 12 months						
Yes	26.0	7.8	26.9	7.1	24.6	8.5
No	32.5	19.8	(35.5)	17.0	32.8	23.3
Wealth quintile						
First	9.0	5.5	8.9	6.0	9.1	3.6
Second	24.6	5.8	24.0	5.9	18.8	5.4
Third	17.3	11.6	18.8	13.3	16.2	8.1
Fourth	27.5	12.6	28.6	12.7	25.7	12.3
Fifth	40.3	35.8	43.7	31.8	41.2	37.9
Total	**27.8**	**15.4**	**27.0**	**13.2**	**27.6**	**18.0**
Urban						
Age (years)						
15–19	38.0	32.8	*	18.4	37.9	36.1
20–24	47.0	42.3	40.6	36.9	50.0	55.1
25–29	NA	NA	40.4	NA	NA	NA
Religion						
Hindu	42.2	39.3	43.6	34.7	42.0	43.0
Muslim	39.6	25.2	23.1	20.8	41.9	27.3
Caste						
SC	34.5	27.1	35.7	21.7	34.8	30.4
OBC	37.6	34.3	40.0	31.2	37.2	36.6
General[1]	54.5	48.1	50.0	42.3	54.2	50.7
Educational level (years)						
None[2]	13.8	9.9	10.5	9.8	14.3	10.0
1–7	22.0	22.5	27.8	26.5	21.4	18.4
8–11	45.0	46.1	50.0	50.0	44.4	44.5
12 and above	61.4	65.9	61.9	70.6	60.9	64.0

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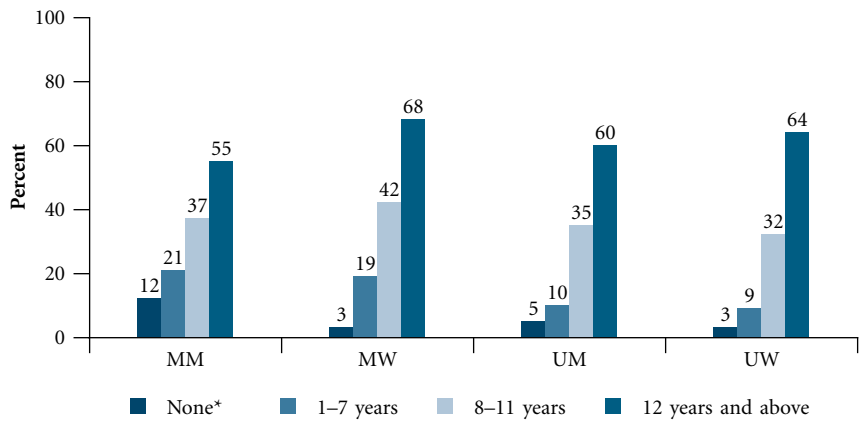
Table 8.7: (Cont'd)

Background characteristics (%)	M 15–24	W 15–24	MM 15–29	MW 15–24	UM 15–24	UW 15–24
Urban						
Worked in last 12 months						
Yes	36.6	32.3	39.1	27.8	35.9	35.7
No	49.6	37.6	(60.0)	33.1	49.6	41.0
Wealth quintile						
First	*	7.1	*	(0.0)	*	*
Second	(16.7)	8.3	(14.3)	9.1	(12.5)	10.0
Third	23.5	9.6	(12.5)	6.7	(21.4)	10.3
Fourth	27.7	18.9	27.8	20.8	26.3	16.7
Fifth	48.5	46.7	52.6	44.8	48.1	48.3
Total	**41.9**	**36.9**	**40.2**	**32.4**	**42.0**	**40.1**
Rural						
Age (years)						
15–19	22.4	11.0	(14.3)	9.3	23.2	12.7
20–24	30.5	14.9	30.2	14.0	31.2	32.5
25–29	NA	NA	24.7	NA	NA	NA
Religion						
Hindu	24.6	12.7	25.5	11.6	24.4	15.0
Muslim	31.1	12.1	27.0	14.3	26.8	9.3
Caste						
SC	21.3	7.2	22.8	7.9	20.4	4.3
OBC	24.9	11.4	25.6	10.9	23.6	12.4
General[1]	31.0	27.9	38.5	31.1	29.7	25.0
Educational level (years)						
None[2]	8.7	2.9	12.0	3.1	3.9	2.0
1–7	12.5	13.6	19.8	18.6	8.6	7.5
8–11	34.4	33.7	35.4	40.2	33.3	28.0
12 and above	59.4	65.3	53.6	*	59.5	63.7
Worked in last 12 months						
Yes	24.6	6.5	25.7	6.6	22.8	6.4
No	27.6	16.5	*	15.4	28.3	18.9
Wealth quintile						
First	9.1	5.4	9.0	6.0	9.2	3.4
Second	24.7	5.7	23.9	5.8	19.1	5.0
Third	17.3	11.8	19.0	13.5	15.6	7.8
Fourth	27.4	12.0	28.7	12.0	25.8	11.9
Fifth	36.7	30.2	41.6	28.6	37.7	32.2
Total	**25.4**	**12.6**	**25.8**	**12.0**	**24.8**	**13.9**

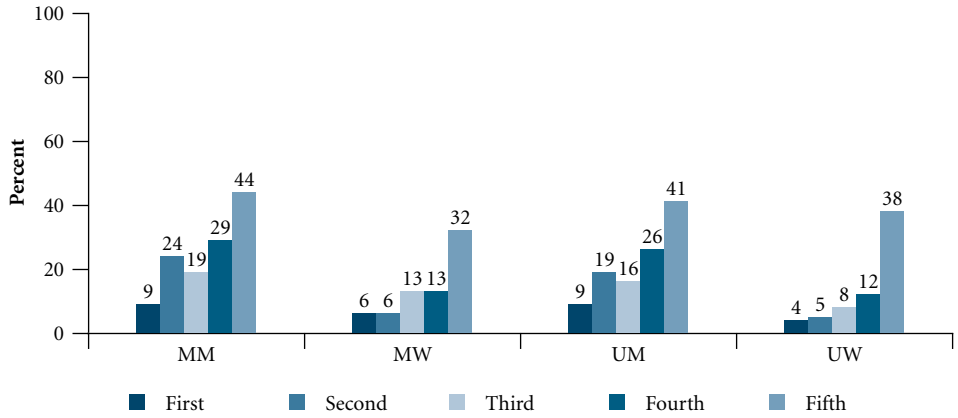
*Note: ( ) Based on 25–49 unweighted cases. *Percentage not shown, based on fewer than 25 unweighted cases. Comprehensive knowledge of HIV/AIDS includes: (1) identifying two major ways of preventing HIV (using condoms and limiting sex to one partner); (2) rejecting three common misconceptions about HIV transmission (that HIV can be transmitted through mosquito bites, sharing food with a person who has HIV and hugging someone who has HIV); and (3) knowing that a healthy looking person can be HIV-positive. NA: Not applicable. OBC: Other backward caste. SC: Scheduled caste. ST: Scheduled tribe. [1]Includes all those not belonging to SC, ST or OBC. [2]Includes non-literate and literate with no formal schooling.*

Figure 8.4a: Comprehensive knowledge of HIV/AIDS by educational level, Bihar, 2007



*Note: *Includes non-literate and literate with no formal schooling.*

Figure 8.4b: Comprehensive knowledge of HIV/AIDS by wealth quintile, Bihar, 2007

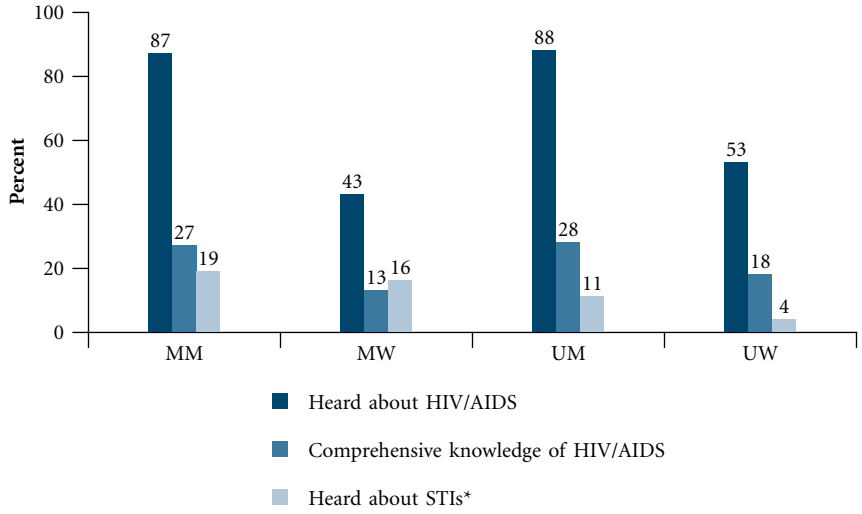


20% and 8%, respectively, among young women), perhaps because many youth who were not working were in school or college and thereby more likely to be exposed to HIV-related information.

Socio-demographic differences among married and unmarried youth, and rural and urban youth more or less mirrored the pattern observed for the combined sample. However, differences by religion suggest that in urban settings Muslim youth, particularly young women, tended to lag behind Hindu youth in terms of comprehensive awareness of HIV/AIDS; in rural areas, more Muslim than Hindu men reported comprehensive awareness.

A comparison of awareness of HIV and other STIs, presented in Figure 8.5, stresses that awareness of STIs other than HIV was far more limited than awareness of HIV/AIDS and even comprehensive awareness of HIV/AIDS.

Figure 8.5: Percentage of youth by awareness of HIV/AIDS, comprehensive knowledge about HIV/AIDS and awareness of STIs, Bihar, 2007



*Note: *Other than HIV.*

8.2 Knowledge of legal issues related to marriage and abortion

Lack of awareness of such issues as the legal minimum age for marriage and the fact that abortion services are legally available may pose barriers to health promoting behaviours. In this section, we present young people's awareness about the law on each of these issues.

8.2.1 Knowledge of the legal minimum age at marriage

The Youth Study collected information on whether youth were aware of the existence of laws relating to the legal minimum age at marriage for males and females in India and probed specific knowledge of these laws. Findings are presented in Table 8.8 and suggest that the majority of youth were aware of the existence of laws governing minimum age at marriage for both girls and boys. Wide gender differences were, however, apparent; young men were more likely than young women to be aware of such laws, with 90% of young men compared to 71–74% of young women reporting that there is a legal age at marriage for girls and boys. Differences by marital status were negligible among young men, but wide among young women. Indeed, many more unmarried than married young women were aware of such laws (77–79% compared to 67–70%). Likewise, larger percentages of urban than rural youth were aware of such laws and rural-urban differences were pronounced among young women.

The exact legal minimum age at marriage for girls and especially for boys was far less likely to be known. Young women were less likely than young men to be aware of the correct legal minimum age at marriage. For example, 72% of young men compared to 58% of young women correctly reported that 18 years was the legal minimum age at marriage for females; however, only 49% of young men and 36% of young women correctly reported that 21 was the legal minimum age at marriage for males. Unmarried youth were more likely than married youth to be aware of the correct legal minimum age at marriage for females (74% and

68%, respectively, among young men; 68% and 53% respectively among young women) and males (51% and 40%, respectively, among young men; 49% and 29%, respectively, among young women). Rural-urban differences were modest among young men; even so, more urban than rural youth reported awareness of correct legal minimum age at marriage for females (78% versus 71%). Among young women, these differences were wide and apparent with respect to awareness of legal minimum age at marriage for both females and males; 54% and 79% of urban young women were aware of the legal minimum age at marriage for males and females, respectively, compared to 34% and 56% of rural young women, respectively.

8.2.2 Awareness of the conditions under which abortion is legal

The Youth Study posed a number of questions to gauge youth awareness of conditions under which abortion is legal, for example, if the woman is married, if the woman is unmarried, if the pregnancy exceeds 20 weeks and if the foetus is female but the couple wants a son. Findings are presented in Table 8.9.

Table 8.8: Knowledge of the legal minimum age at marriage

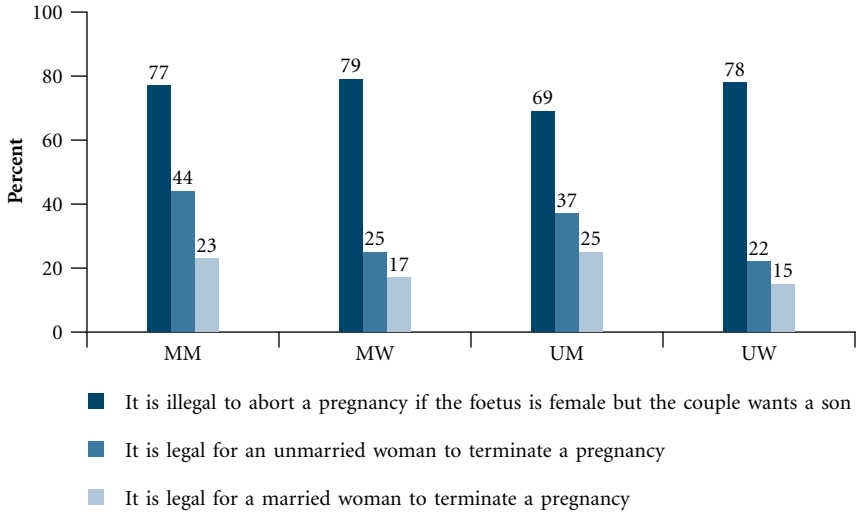
Percentage of youth who had correct knowledge of the legal minimum age at marriage in India, according to residence, Bihar, 2007

Knowledge (%)	M 15–24	W 15–24	MM 15–29	MW 15–24	UM 15–24	UW 15–24
Combined						
Aware that there is a legal age at marriage for:						
Males	90.2	70.8	89.2	66.9	91.2	76.9
Females	90.2	73.8	89.2	70.4	91.0	79.4
Aware of correct legal age at marriage for:						
Males	48.6	36.1	39.6	29.0	51.1	48.5
Females	71.7	58.1	68.3	52.5	73.5	67.5
Number of respondents	**1,942**	**5,529**	**1,115**	**2,341**	**1,492**	**3,188**
Urban						
Aware that there is a legal age at marriage for:						
Males	94.6	87.8	92.5	83.8	95.1	90.7
Females	95.0	89.5	93.5	85.9	95.1	91.9
Aware of correct legal age at marriage for:						
Males	50.9	53.5	46.7	45.1	51.8	59.3
Females	77.8	78.6	77.2	73.2	77.9	82.8
Number of respondents	**1,039**	**2,581**	**547**	**1,136**	**833**	**1,445**
Rural						
Aware that there is a legal age at marriage for:						
Males	89.4	68.6	88.9	65.9	90.5	74.4
Females	89.4	71.8	88.8	69.3	90.2	77.1
Aware of correct legal age at marriage for:						
Males	48.2	33.9	38.9	27.9	51.0	46.5
Females	70.7	55.5	67.4	51.1	72.7	64.7
Number of respondents	**903**	**2,948**	**568**	**1,205**	**659**	**1,743**

Note: All Ns are unweighted.

Of the four conditions probed, the largest percentages of youth—71% of young men and 79% of young women—were aware that sex-selective abortion is illegal, presumably the result of widespread information campaigns against sex-selective abortion. A second issue about which large percentages of respondents were aware was that it is illegal to terminate a pregnancy that has gone beyond 20 weeks, reported by 67% of young men and 83% of young women. Many fewer were aware that an unmarried woman is legally entitled to undergo an abortion (24–40%) and even fewer were aware that a married woman is legally entitled to undergo abortion (16–25%) (see Figure 8.6). Young men were more likely than young women to be aware that married women (25% versus 16%) and unmarried women (40% versus 24%) were legally entitled to undergo abortion. Conversely, young men were less likely than young women to be aware that sex-selective abortion is illegal and that it is illegal to terminate a pregnancy that has gone beyond 20 weeks. Differences by marital status were negligible among young women, but wide among young men, with more married than unmarried young men reporting awareness of three of the four legal conditions under which abortion is permitted. Rural-urban differences were muted among young men, but wide among young women, with more urban than rural young women reporting awareness of three of the four legal conditions under which abortion is permitted.

Figure 8.6: Percentage of youth who were aware of selected conditions under which abortion is legal, Bihar, 2007



As is evident from Table 8.9, few youth (6% of young men and 3% of young women) could correctly report the legality of all four conditions probed. Differences were mild by marital status and rural-urban residence.

8.3 Sources of information on sex and reproduction

The Youth Study questionnaire asked respondents about their sources of information on sexual matters and contraception. For the married, questions about sources of information on sexual matters referred to the situation prior to marriage; in contrast, questions relating to sources of information about contraception related to the current situation, that is, around the time of interview.

Table 8.9: Awareness of the conditions under which abortion is legal

Percent distribution of youth by knowledge of the conditions under which abortion is legal, according to residence, Bihar, 2007

Knowledge (%)	M 15–24	W 15–24	MM 15–29	MW 15–24	UM 15–24	UW 15–24
Combined						
Agree that it is legal for a married woman to terminate a pregnancy	24.7	16.2	22.9	16.7	24.8	15.2
Agree that it is legal for an unmarried woman to terminate a pregnancy	40.4	23.8	43.6	24.8	37.3	21.5
Agree that it is illegal to undergo abortion after 20 weeks of gestation	66.6	83.0	73.3	83.9	64.5	80.8
Disagree that it is legal to abort a pregnancy if the foetus is female but the couple wants a son	71.2	78.5	76.5	78.7	69.4	77.6
Had correct knowledge of all of the above	**6.4**	**2.8**	**6.5**	**2.6**	**5.9**	**3.0**
Number of respondents	**1,942**	**5,529**	**1,115**	**2,341**	**1,492**	**3,188**
Urban						
Agree that it is legal for a married woman to terminate a pregnancy	27.5	16.0	25.0	15.5	27.9	16.6
Agree that it is legal for an unmarried woman to terminate a pregnancy	40.9	29.7	43.5	29.6	40.2	30.0
Agree that it is illegal to undergo abortion after 20 weeks of gestation	71.0	90.3	79.3	89.5	70.1	90.5
Disagree that it is legal to abort a pregnancy if the foetus is female but the couple wants a son	74.2	86.0	76.1	84.6	73.5	86.8
Had correct knowledge of all of the above	**7.2**	**3.8**	**6.5**	**3.5**	**7.3**	**3.8**
Number of respondents	**1,039**	**2,581**	**547**	**1,136**	**833**	**1,445**
Rural						
Agree that it is legal for a married woman to terminate a pregnancy	24.3	16.2	22.6	16.8	24.3	15.0
Agree that it is legal for an unmarried woman to terminate a pregnancy	40.4	23.1	43.6	24.5	36.8	20.0
Agree that it is illegal to undergo abortion after 20 weeks of gestation	65.9	82.1	72.9	83.5	63.5	79.0
Disagree that it is legal to abort a pregnancy if the foetus is female but the couple wants a son	70.7	77.5	76.4	78.3	68.5	75.9
Had correct knowledge of all of the above	**6.2**	**2.6**	**6.5**	**2.5**	**5.6**	**2.8**
Number of respondents	**903**	**2,498**	**568**	**1,205**	**659**	**1,743**

Note: All Ns are unweighted.

8.3.1 Sources of information on sexual matters

Findings, presented in Table 8.10, suggest that young women had few sources of information on sex and reproduction. Indeed, over two-fifths of young women (44%) reported that they had never received any information on sexual matters (prior to marriage among the married). While young men were far more likely to have been informed, 16% reported that they had never received information on sex or reproduction (prior to marriage among the married). Among young men the married were as likely as the unmarried to report that they had never received any information on sexual matters; however among young women, the

married were more likely to so report (51% versus 33%). Larger percentages of rural young men and women were uninformed about sexual matters compared to their urban counterparts (17% and 10% among young men, and 46% versus 28% among young women, respectively).

Leading sources of information on sex and reproduction were somewhat similar among young men and women and included friends and neighbours (reported by 62% and 31% of young men and women, respectively) and the media (reported by 49% and 12%, respectively). Young women, in addition, reported family members other than spouse (19%) as a major source of information. Other sources were mentioned by fewer than five percent of both young men and women. Notably, very few youth (0–4%) cited teachers and schools, health care providers or youth or women's group or NGO worker as a source of information on sex and reproduction. Differences by marital status were modest; even so, the unmarried were more likely than the married to cite the mass media as a source of information (51% versus 41% among young men, and 21% versus 6% among young women). Among young women, in addition, the unmarried were more likely than the married to mention family members other than spouse (24% versus 16%) and friends and neighbours as a source of information (37% versus 28%).

Patterns were, by and large, similar in urban and rural areas, yet some differences were notable. Urban youth were more likely than rural youth to cite mass media as the main source of information (65% versus 46% among young men and 38% versus 8% among young women). Additionally, urban young women were more likely than their rural counterparts to report family members other than spouse (25% versus 18%) as sources of information.

8.3.2 Current sources of information on contraception

Table 8.11 describes current sources of information on contraception as reported by youth who were aware of at least one contraceptive method. Findings reiterate, as above, that friends and the media played important roles in conveying contraception-related information to young people.

However, sources of information varied by sex, marital status and place of residence of respondents. For example, key sources of information for young men were mass media (70%) and male friends (66%). One in eight reported health care providers as sources of information on contraception. Among married young men, wives were reported as a source of information by just 10%. Differences by marital status suggest that unmarried young men were less likely than married young men to obtain contraceptive information from family members other than spouse (6% versus 11%), peers (63% versus 72%) and health care providers (11% versus 24%), but more likely to obtain information from mass media (73% versus 59%) and schools or teachers (6% versus 1%). Rural-urban differences suggest that young men in rural settings were less likely than those in urban settings to obtain information from the media (68% and 81%, respectively).

Among young women, patterns were different. Clearly, young women had a greater variety of sources of information on contraceptives than men. While friends and neighbours continued to be the main source of information on contraception among young women as well (53%), such sources as family members other than spouse (44%) and media (34%) were also common sources of information. Differences by marital status were evident among young women. Almost three-fifths (59%) of married young women reported that they obtained information on contraception from their husbands. Considerable percentages of married young women also received information on contraception from female friends/neighbours (56%), family members other than spouse (44%) and the media (25%). Compared to married young women, unmarried young women's leading sources of information on contraceptives were female friends/neighbours (50%), followed by the mass media (47%) and family members (44%). Rural-urban differences suggest that young women in

Table 8.10: Sources of information on sexual matters before marriage

Percentage of youth by sources of information on sexual matters before marriage, according to residence, Bihar, 2007

Sources of information (%)	M 15–24	W 15–24	MM 15–29	MW 15–24	UM 15–24	UW 15–24
Combined						
Never received information	15.7	44.1	15.5	50.7	15.3	32.7
A family member other than spouse	2.7	18.7	5.2	16.0	2.1	23.6
Spouse/partner	1.2	1.2	2.8	1.5	0.3	0.4
Friend/neighbour	62.0	30.6	65.0	27.5	60.8	36.5
Teacher/school	4.0	1.4	1.3	0.3	5.3	3.1
Health care provider	4.1	0.2	7.2	0.2	3.8	0.4
Mass media[1]	48.5	11.6	41.1	5.6	50.8	21.0
Youth/*mahila mandal*/NGO worker	0.2	0.1	0.3	0.1	0.2	0.3
Poster/billboard	2.1	0.0	1.3	0.0	2.5	0.1
Don't remember	2.0	7.4	2.8	9.1	1.9	4.6
Number of respondents	**1,942**	**5,529**	**1,115**	**2,341**	**1,492**	**3,188**
Urban						
Never received information	9.7	27.8	8.6	38.7	10.2	20.0
A family member other than spouse	1.4	25.0	3.3	22.5	1.2	26.7
Spouse/partner	1.1	1.4	2.2	2.8	0.8	0.4
Friend/neighbour	63.8	32.0	71.7	32.4	62.3	31.6
Teacher/school	5.0	5.8	2.2	1.4	5.3	8.7
Health care provider	4.6	0.3	6.5	0.0	4.1	0.4
Mass media[1]	64.5	37.7	57.6	21.1	66.4	49.6
Youth/*mahila mandal*/NGO worker	0.4	0.0	1.1	0.0	0.4	0.0
Poster/billboard	3.6	0.2	3.3	0.0	3.7	0.2
Don't remember	1.1	3.1	1.1	4.9	1.2	1.8
Number of respondents	**1,039**	**2,581**	**547**	**1,136**	**833**	**1,445**
Rural						
Never received information	16.7	46.3	16.1	51.5	16.3	35.1
A family member other than spouse	3.0	17.9	5.4	15.6	2.3	23.0
Spouse/partner	1.2	1.1	2.8	1.5	0.2	0.3
Friend/neighbour	61.7	30.5	64.4	27.2	60.5	37.4
Teacher/school	3.8	0.8	1.3	0.3	5.3	2.1
Health care provider	4.0	0.2	7.2	0.1	3.8	0.4
Mass media[1]	45.8	8.1	39.6	4.5	47.8	15.8
Youth/*mahila mandal*/NGO worker	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.4
Poster/billboard	1.8	0.0	1.2	0.0	2.2	0.1
Don't remember	2.2	8.0	2.9	9.3	2.0	5.2
Number of respondents	**903**	**2,498**	**568**	**1,205**	**659**	**1,743**

Note: All Ns are unweighted. Column totals may exceed 100% due to multiple responses. For married respondents, questions referred to the period prior to marriage. [1]*Include newspapers, books/magazines, radio/television and the internet.*

Table 8.11: Current sources of information on contraception

Percentage of youth reporting awareness of contraceptives by current sources of information, according to residence, Bihar, 2007

Current sources of information (%)	M 15–24	W 15–24	MM 15–29	MW 15–24	UM 15–24	UW 15–24
Combined						
Family member other than spouse	7.8	43.8	10.8	43.8	5.9	44.0
Spouse/partner	3.3	38.7	10.1	58.9	0.9	0.1
Female friend/neighbour	1.7	53.2	1.6	55.6	2.0	49.6
Male friend/neighbour	66.0	0.8	71.5	0.8	63.1	1.0
Teacher/school/college	4.2	0.7	0.7	0.1	5.7	1.7
Health care provider	12.9	2.9	24.2	3.9	10.7	1.0
Mass media[1]	69.5	33.5	58.5	25.4	72.9	46.7
Poster/billboard	7.0	1.4	5.3	1.4	8.2	1.4
Youth/*mahila mandal*/NGO worker	0.3	0.4	0.5	0.4	0.2	0.4
Other sources	0.5	0.1	1.5	0.1	0.3	0.0
Number aware of contraceptives	**1,850**	**5,452**	**1,096**	**2,334**	**1,411**	**3,118**
Urban						
Family member other than spouse	4.4	43.3	5.4	49.3	4.2	39.0
Spouse/partner	2.2	29.1	10.9	69.0	0.4	0.4
Female friend/neighbour	0.7	39.3	2.2	45.8	0.8	34.7
Male friend/neighbour	65.6	0.3	76.1	0.0	63.2	0.2
Teacher/school/college	5.5	2.8	2.2	0.0	5.9	4.5
Health care provider	12.5	3.3	22.0	5.6	11.3	2.0
Mass media[1]	81.0	68.2	68.5	53.5	83.7	78.9
Poster/billboard	9.9	3.3	12.1	2.1	9.2	4.3
Youth/*mahila mandal*/NGO worker	0.7	0.2	1.1	0.0	0.4	0.2
Other sources	0.7	0.0	1.1	0.0	0.8	0.0
Number aware of contraceptives	**1,016**	**2,566**	**543**	**1,134**	**813**	**1,432**
Rural						
Family member other than spouse	8.3	43.9	11.3	43.4	6.3	44.9
Spouse/partner	3.5	40.0	10.1	58.2	1.0	0.0
Female friend/neighbour	1.9	55.0	1.5	56.2	2.3	52.4
Male friend/neighbour	66.0	0.9	71.1	0.8	63.0	1.1
Teacher/school/college	4.0	0.4	0.5	0.1	5.7	1.2
Health care provider	12.9	2.9	24.4	3.8	10.5	0.9
Mass media[1]	67.5	29.0	57.6	23.6	70.6	40.7
Poster/billboard	6.5	1.2	4.7	1.3	8.0	0.8
Youth/*mahila mandal*/NGO worker	0.3	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.2	0.4
Other sources	0.5	0.0	1.5	0.1	0.2	0.0
Number aware of contraceptives	**834**	**2,886**	**553**	**1,200**	**598**	**1,686**

Note: All Ns are unweighted. Column totals may not equal 100% due to multiple responses. [1]Include newspapers, books/ magazines, radio/television and the internet.

rural settings were somewhat more likely than those in urban settings to rely on female friends (55% versus 39%), and much less likely to rely on the mass media (29% versus 68%), for information on contraception. Among the married, however, urban young women were more likely than their rural counterparts to cite a husband as a source of information on contraception (69% versus 58%).

Of note with regard to both young men and women were findings suggesting that health care providers reached just one-quarter of married young men, one-tenth of unmarried young men and even fewer married and unmarried young women (1–4%). This is likely a consequence of the lack of attention that the RCH Programme has paid, thus far, to young people, including married young women. Teachers, likewise, reached a minority of the unmarried (2–6%).

A comparison of sources of information on sex and reproduction (prior to marriage for the married) and contraception suggests that leading sources of information on both matters were peers and the media, which are not necessarily the most reliable sources of information. In contrast, family members, teachers and health care providers—often assumed to be more reliable sources of information—were not necessarily reported as such. For example, health care providers were important sources of information on contraception just for married young men; they were far less likely to have provided information to the unmarried and even to married young women. No more than 6% of unmarried and hardly any married youth cited teachers as sources of information on sexual matters or contraception. No more than 8% of young men cited a family member as a source of information on sex or contraception.

8.4 Perceptions and experience of family life or sex education

In the Youth Study, we asked respondents about their views on the importance of imparting family life or sex education to youth, the best age at which youth should receive information about sexual matters and the best person to provide that information. We also asked youth whether they had received formal family life or sex education and if so, the source of this education and their opinion about its quality.

Table 8.12 presents findings on young people's perceptions of family life or sex education. The majority of youth felt that it is important to impart family life or sex education to youth—81% of young men and 77% of young women. Differences by marital status were modest; however, somewhat more unmarried than married young women reported this perception (81% versus 74%). Urban youth, irrespective of sex and marital status, were more likely than their rural counterparts to report this perception (88–89% versus 75–80%).

Of those who perceived family life or sex education to be important, almost two-fifths of young men and over one-third of young women reported that such education should be provided to young people at ages between 15 and 17 years. Young men were more likely than young women to believe that information on sexual matters should be provided at age 18 years or later (33% versus 19%). However, considerably larger percentages of young women than men were not sure about the appropriate age for provision of family life or sex education. By and large, differences by marital status and rural-urban residence were narrow; it would appear however that unmarried young men were more likely than the married to consider ages below 18 as appropriate.

In terms of youth perceptions about the best person to impart education on sex or family life matters, young men and women revealed quite different preferences. Findings suggest that while young women would like to obtain information on sex or family life matters from their parents or siblings, this was not the case for young men, who would prefer to consult teachers, health care providers or other knowledgeable persons, on one hand, and peers, on the other. As shown in Table 8.12, among young men who perceived family life

Table 8.12: Perceptions about family life or sex education

Percentage of youth by perceptions about family life or sex education, according to residence, Bihar, 2007

Perceptions (%)	M 15–24	W 15–24	MM 15–29	MW 15–24	UM 15–24	UW 15–24
Combined						
Perceived family life/sex education to be important	81.3	76.8	81.9	74.4	80.8	80.5
Number of respondents	**1,942**	**5,529**	**1,115**	**2,341**	**1,492**	**3,188**
Perceived that family life/sex education should be provided at age (years):						
Below 12	5.5	3.6	5.9	4.2	6.1	2.7
12–14	19.0	25.4	14.9	26.2	20.8	24.1
15–17	38.4	36.1	33.8	35.3	38.8	37.1
18 or above	32.8	19.2	40.9	17.3	30.7	21.9
Don't know	4.3	15.7	4.5	16.9	3.6	14.2
Perceived that the best person to provide family life/sex education was:						
Parent	11.2	34.1	11.9	32.5	12.2	36.3
Sibling/sister-in-law	0.6	18.8	0.4	18.9	0.8	18.7
Spouse/partner	0.3	4.8	0.7	7.4	0.4	0.5
Teacher	29.1	7.3	23.5	5.3	33.0	10.7
Friend	28.0	16.5	26.4	15.8	25.2	17.7
Health care provider/expert	22.3	9.0	28.4	9.7	19.8	7.9
Youth club/*mandal*/NGO worker	0.6	0.0	1.0	0.0	0.4	0.2
Others	0.3	0.2	1.6	0.1	0.1	0.4
Don't know	7.5	9.2	5.8	10.3	7.7	7.5
Number who perceived family life/sex education to be important	**1,631**	**4,553**	**932**	**1,859**	**1,254**	**2,696**
Urban						
Perceived family life/sex education to be important	87.9	89.3	85.9	85.2	88.2	92.1
Number of respondents	**1,039**	**2,581**	**547**	**1,136**	**833**	**1,445**
Perceived that family life/sex education should be provided at age (years):						
Below 12	4.1	1.4	3.8	1.7	3.7	1.5
12–14	19.9	23.6	15.0	25.6	21.3	22.1
15–17	42.3	39.6	40.0	38.8	42.1	40.4
18 or above	30.1	27.8	37.5	24.0	29.2	30.3
Don't know	3.7	7.6	3.8	9.9	3.7	5.7
Perceived that the best person to provide family life/sex education was:						
Parent	15.8	42.7	15.2	37.7	16.2	46.2
Sibling/sister-in-law	0.8	17.2	0.0	21.3	0.9	14.5
Spouse/partner	0.8	1.6	0.0	3.3	0.5	0.7
Teacher	32.0	9.5	27.8	7.4	33.8	10.8
Friend	26.7	16.3	29.1	17.2	25.5	15.6
Health care provider/expert	17.4	8.6	22.8	8.2	16.7	8.8
Youth club/*mandal*/NGO worker	0.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.5	0.2
Others	0.4	0.2	1.3	0.0	0.5	0.2
Don't know	5.7	3.9	3.8	4.9	5.6	3.1
Number who perceived family life/sex education to be important	**910**	**2,300**	**471**	**969**	**733**	**1,331**

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Table 8.12: (Cont'd)

Perceptions (%)	M 15–24	W 15–24	MM 15–29	MW 15–24	UM 15–24	UW 15–24
Rural						
Perceived family life/sex education to be important	80.2	75.2	81.5	73.7	79.3	78.4
Number of respondents	**903**	**2,498**	**568**	**1,205**	**659**	**1,743**
Perceived that family life/sex education should be provided at age (years):						
Below 12	5.8	3.9	6.1	4.4	6.5	2.9
12–14	18.9	25.6	14.9	26.1	20.8	24.6
15–17	37.7	35.5	33.3	35.1	38.1	36.4
18 or above	33.3	17.9	41.1	16.8	31.0	20.0
Don't know	4.4	17.0	4.6	17.4	3.6	16.0
Perceived that the best person to provide family life/sex education was:						
Parent	10.4	32.8	11.6	32.1	11.3	34.2
Sibling/sister-in-law	0.6	19.0	0.4	18.8	0.9	19.6
Spouse/partner	0.2	5.3	0.7	7.7	0.3	0.5
Teacher	28.5	7.0	23.1	5.1	32.8	10.7
Friend	28.2	16.5	26.1	15.7	25.2	18.2
Health care provider/expert	23.1	9.1	29.0	9.8	20.4	7.7
Youth club/*mandal*/NGO worker	0.6	0.1	1.1	0.0	0.4	0.1
Others	0.3	0.2	1.7	0.1	0.0	0.4
Don't know	7.9	10.0	6.0	10.7	8.3	8.5
Number who perceived family life/sex education to be important	**721**	**2,255**	**461**	**890**	**521**	**1,365**

Note: All Ns are unweighted. Column totals may not equal 100% due to missing cases.

or sex education to be important, leading preferred sources of such education were teachers (29%), friends (28%) and health care providers and other experts (22%). Just 12% cited a parent or sibling. Among young women who perceived family life or sex education to be important, in contrast, the most commonly cited preferred sources were parents (34%), siblings (19%) and friends (17%). Teachers and health care providers or experts were cited by 7% and 9%, respectively.

Differences by marital status were, by and large, modest among young women. Among young men, larger proportions of the married than the unmarried considered health care providers best equipped to provide family life or sex education (29% versus 20%); conversely, more of the unmarried than the married considered teachers best equipped to provide family life or sex education (33% versus 24%). Rural-urban differences were negligible, except that more urban than rural youth cited parents best equipped to provide family life or sex education (16% versus 10% among young men; 43% versus 33% among young women).

Very few youth reported that they had received family life or sex education in school or through special programmes sponsored by the government or NGOs. As seen in Table 8.13, just 7% of young men and 3% of young women had received any formal family life or sex education. Differences by marital status were modest; however the unmarried were slightly more likely to have obtained family life or sex education than the married (see also Figure 8.7). Rural-urban differences were mild: slightly more urban than rural young men had ever received family life or sex education (11% and 7%, respectively) and considerably more young women in urban than in rural settings had received this education (9% and 2%, respectively).

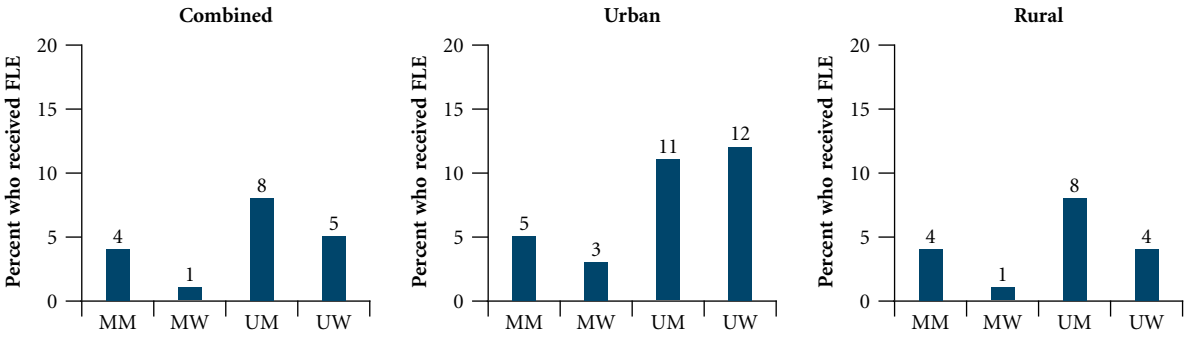
Table 8.13: Experiences of family life or sex education

Percentage of youth by experiences of family life or sex education, according to residence, Bihar, 2007

Experiences (%)	M 15–24	W 15–24	MM 15–29	MW 15–24	UM 15–24	UW 15–24
Combined						
Received formal family life/sex education	7.2	2.5	3.9	0.9	8.3	5.1
Number of respondents	**1,942**	**5,529**	**1,115**	**2,341**	**1,492**	**3,188**
Source of family life/sex education						
NGO programme/camp	4.2	5.5	9.3	(15.4)	3.2	1.8
Government programme/camp	14.0	6.9	30.2	(7.7)	8.7	7.9
School/college	77.6	81.4	60.5	(61.5)	84.8	87.8
Others	2.8	1.4	4.7	(0.0)	2.4	1.8
Opinion about family life/sex education received						
It answered many queries	74.8	75.3	85.7	(72.0)	72.2	76.8
Teacher/trainer explained well	83.2	78.1	88.4	(72.0)	81.0	81.0
Respondent felt embarrassed	44.4	56.2	44.2	(61.5)	42.9	54.9
Number who received family life/sex education	**171**	**288**	**52**	**46**	**148**	**242**
Urban						
Received formal family life/sex education	10.8	8.5	5.4	2.8	11.4	12.3
Number of respondents	**1,039**	**2,581**	**547**	**1,136**	**833**	**1,445**
Source of family life/sex education						
NGO programme/camp	3.3	0.0	(16.7)	(0.0)	3.6	0.0
Government programme/camp	6.7	1.9	(16.7)	(0.0)	7.1	1.6
School/college	86.7	98.1	(80.0)	(100.0)	88.9	98.4
Others	3.3	1.9	(0.0)	(0.0)	3.6	0.0
Opinion about family life/sex education received						
It answered many queries	86.7	79.6	(80.0)	(75.0)	88.9	80.3
Teacher/trainer explained well	86.2	84.9	(80.0)	(75.0)	85.7	86.7
Respondent felt embarrassed	33.3	50.0	(40.0)	(60.0)	35.7	47.5
Number who received family life/sex education	**108**	**212**	**31**	**35**	**95**	**177**
Rural						
Received formal family life/sex education	6.6	1.7	3.7	0.8	7.7	3.7
Number of respondents	**903**	**2,498**	**568**	**1,205**	**659**	**1,743**
Source of family life/sex education						
NGO programme/camp	4.4	8.7	*	*	3.1	2.9
Government programme/camp	15.9	9.9	*	*	9.2	11.5
School/college	75.2	71.7	*	*	83.7	80.8
Others	2.7	2.2	*	*	2.0	2.9
Opinion about family life/sex education received						
It answered many queries	71.7	73.6	*	*	67.3	74.8
Teacher/trainer explained well	83.2	75.0	*	*	79.6	78.4
Respondent felt embarrassed	46.9	60.4	*	*	44.9	59.2
Number who received family life/sex education	**63**	**76**	**21**	**11**	**53**	**65**

*Note: All Ns are unweighted. Column totals may not equal 100% due to missing cases or "don't know" responses. ( ) Based on 25–49 unweighted cases. *Percentage not shown, based on fewer than 25 unweighted cases.*

Figure 8.7: Percentage of youth who received family life or sex education, according to residence, Bihar, 2007



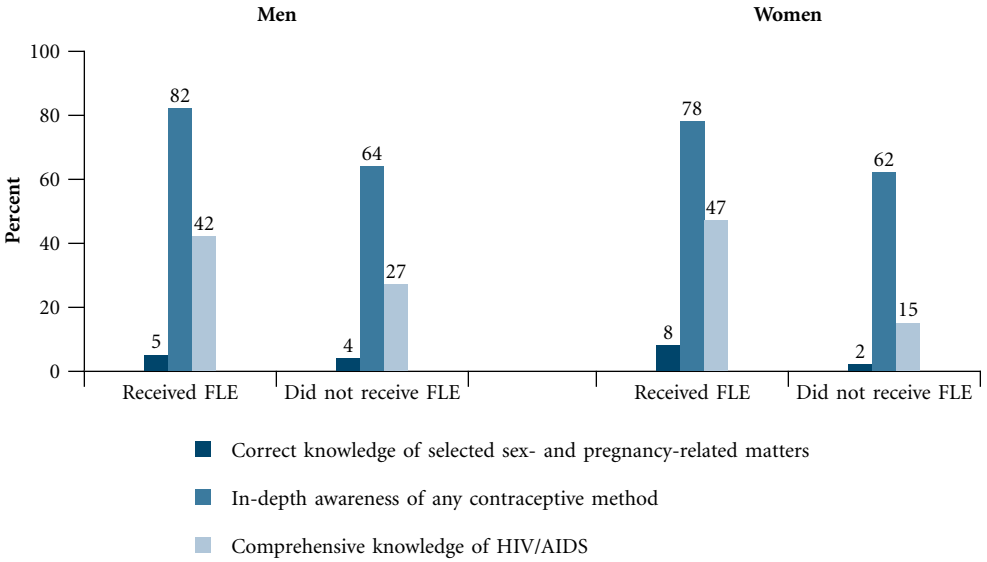
Note: FLE: Family life or sex education.

The large majority of youth who had received family life or sex education had done so in school or college (78% of young men and 81% of young women); married youth were less likely than unmarried youth to have obtained such education in school/college (61–62% versus 85–88%), and conversely more likely to have received such education through NGO or government programmes (23–40% versus 10–12%). Rural youth were somewhat less likely than urban youth to have received this education in school/college (72–75% versus 87–98%) and somewhat more likely to have received it in NGO or government programmes or camps (19–20% versus 2–10%).

Of those who reported receiving formal family life or sex education, three-quarters felt that it had answered many of their questions and 78–83% reported that teachers or trainers had explained matters well. Differences by marital status show that more married than unmarried young men felt that the family life or sex education they had received had answered many of their questions (86% versus 72%) and that trainers had explained matters well (88% versus 81%). Among young women, a reverse pattern was evident, with more unmarried than married young women reported as such (77–81% versus 72%). Rural-urban differences indicate that in general, more urban than rural youth gave positive assessment of the education that they had received. Despite the fact that youth gave a generally positive assessment of the education they had received, 44% of young men and 56% of young women reported feeling uncomfortable or embarrassed in the course of family life or sex education, raising questions about the extent to which they were indeed able to participate freely and clarify doubts. More married than unmarried young women reported feeling uncomfortable or embarrassed (62% versus 55%), but the differences were muted among young men. Rural respondents were more likely to report embarrassment than urban respondents (47% versus 33% among young men and 60% versus 50% among young women).

Figure 8.8 compares the extent to which those who had received family life or sex education differed in terms of correct knowledge of selected sexual and reproductive health matters with those who had not. Findings suggest that youth who had received family life or sex education were more likely than those who had not to report in-depth awareness of contraception and comprehensive awareness of HIV/AIDS (see Sections 8.1.1, 8.1.3 and 8.1.8 for details of items considered in each summary measure). Differences were moderate in regard to correct knowledge of sex- and pregnancy-related matters. Differences were, by and large, evident among both rural and urban respondents, but wider in urban than rural areas (not shown in figure).

Figure 8.8: Percentage of youth reporting knowledge of selected sexual and reproductive health matters according to whether they had or had not received family life or sex education, Bihar, 2007



Note: FLE: Family life or sex education.

8.5 Summary

Findings presented in this chapter underscore young people's extremely limited awareness of most sexual and reproductive matters, ranging from how pregnancy occurs to contraception, HIV and safe sex practices. For example, just 27–33% of youth were even aware that a woman can get pregnant at first sex. Just 11–12% of youth reported awareness of STIs other than HIV. Even on topics about which young people were generally aware, awareness was far from universal. For example, only 72% of young men and 58% of young women knew that 18 years was the legal minimum age at marriage for females.

Moreover, even on topics about which young people were generally aware, findings show that in-depth understanding was limited. For example, while 93–99% reported awareness of at least one contraceptive method, in-depth awareness of condoms and oral contraceptives, the methods most familiar to youth, was reported by just 62% and 26% of young men and 30% and 48% of young women, respectively. Likewise, while 87% of young men and 47% of young women had heard of HIV, only 28% of young men and 15% of young women were fully aware of HIV and its transmission routes.

Not surprisingly, youth reported few reliable sources of information about sexual matters or contraception. Indeed, 16% of young men and 44% of young women reported that they had never received any information on sexual matters (prior to marriage among the married). Friends and the media were leading sources of information on both issues for both young men and women. Neither of these is necessarily a reliable source of information. For young women, in addition, family members were a leading source of information; they were rarely cited as a source of information by young men. Fewer than 6% of unmarried and hardly any married youth cited teachers as sources of information on sexual matters or contraception. Health care providers were important sources of information on contraception just for married young men; they were far

less likely to have provided information to the unmarried and even to married young women. In short, health care providers, teachers and family members—often assumed to be a more reliable source of information than peers or the media—were infrequently and inconsistently cited as sources of information on sensitive topics such as sexual matters and contraception by young people.

Few youth had attended family life or sex education programmes either in or outside the school setting—just 7% of young men and 3% young women. Despite this, youth were overwhelmingly in favour of the provision of family life or sex education; while young men preferred to receive this education from a professional (health care provider, teacher and so on), young women preferred parents or siblings. Findings suggest, moreover, that youth who had undergone family life or sex education were indeed more knowledgeable about sexual and reproductive matters than those not exposed to this education.

Chapter 9

Pre-marital romantic and sexual relationships

While evidence is sparse, several studies have noted that despite socio-cultural taboos, youth in India do find opportunities to mix and form romantic relationships, and to engage in pre-marital sex with a range of partners and in a variety of situations (Abraham, 2001; 2002; Abraham and Kumar, 1999; Alexander et al., 2006a; 2006b; Awasthi, Nichter and Pande, 2000). This chapter begins by describing the development of questions intended to capture these youth relationships. The chapter then explores young people's attitudes towards pre-marital physical intimacy and sex, and the extent and nature of their pre-marital romantic experiences, followed by a description of their pre-marital sexual experiences, including those within romantic partnerships and other situations. Finally, the chapter compares reports of pre-marital romantic and sexual experiences derived using three different methodological approaches, that is, face-to-face interviews, anonymous reporting of respondents' own experiences using a sealed envelope and anonymous third-party reporting of the experiences of respondents' friends.

9.1 Development of the questionnaire module on pre-marital romantic and sexual relationships

In view of the fact that social norms prohibiting pre-marital opposite-sex mixing may result in serious under-reporting of romantic and sexual relationships by youth, the Youth Study initiated the development of this module with a series of focus group discussions among married and unmarried young men and women. In the course of these focus group discussions, youth confirmed that romantic relationships were indeed formed, and mapped a range of places in which youth met their romantic partners secretly. They also listed the vocabulary used by youth to describe their romantic relationships, including the commonly used term "to give a proposal" to describe the act of conveying romantic intentions to opposite-sex individuals.

Building on these insights, a romantic relationship was defined as one comprising a boyfriend-girlfriend relationship (worded culturally appropriately) in which an emotional, physical or sexual relationship was experienced; one in which a "proposal" was accepted, or one in which the couple spent time together alone and secretly. Correspondingly, all respondents were asked questions on whether or not they had ever had a boy- or girl-friend; whether they had "proposed" to anyone of the opposite sex or someone of the opposite sex had "proposed" to them and the "proposal" was accepted, and whether they had spent time alone and secretly with an opposite-sex person. Youth who reported any of the above experiences were considered to have experienced a romantic relationship. We note that our definition of romantic relationships precluded the possibility of reporting same-sex romantic relationships.

All respondents who had reported a romantic partner were then probed regarding the nature of the relationship and the extent of physical contact experienced in the relationship. Questions probing respondents' experience with physical intimacy were posed on a continuum, starting with hand-holding and extending to sexual relations. Thus, the instrument sought to ask potentially sensitive or embarrassing questions in a gradual way,

thereby also enabling the interviewer to build rapport with the respondent. Detailed questions concerning the nature of the relationship were asked with reference to the first romantic partner as well as the most recent, if more than one was reported.

Pre-survey focus group discussions also probed the nature of situations in which sex was experienced. Participants discussed an array of partners with whom youth engaged in sexual relations, including romantic and casual, heterosexual and homosexual, sex workers and older married women. Situations of forced and exchange sex were also discussed. Our survey, correspondingly, inquired about each of these different types of relationships after we had obtained detailed information on the nature of relationships with romantic partners.

Additionally, recognising the reluctance of youth to disclose sexual experience in a survey situation, at the conclusion of the interview, all respondents were asked a single question ("*Have you ever had sex with anyone [for the unmarried]/Did you ever have sex with anyone before marriage [for the married]?*") and asked to mark a blank card with a "✓" or a "**X**," place the card in an envelope, seal it and return it to the interviewer. Respondents were informed that the envelope would not be opened in the field, and that only the principal investigators would be able to link the information provided in the envelope with what was provided in the main body of the questionnaire.

We also recognised that despite significant rapport building and a well-developed sequence of questions eliciting sexual behaviours, young people may not have wished to disclose sexual activity in either of the above formats. Other researchers have observed that respondents may be more forthcoming about reporting sensitive behaviours among their peer networks than about themselves and that responses relating to the peer network correspond closely to their own experiences (Rossier, 2003). Hence the Youth Study incorporated anonymous third-party reporting questions, in which respondents reported the romantic and sexual experiences of up to five same-sex peers.

In addition, efforts were made to ensure that youth were comfortable revealing sensitive behaviours. Interviewers were young and trained to build rapport, discuss sensitive experiences in empathetic and matter-of-fact ways and generally make respondents feel comfortable about the topics to be discussed during the interview. As far as possible, interviews were held at times and places that assured the respondent maximum confidentiality. In cases in which family members attempted to participate in or overhear the interview, another interviewer was called upon to conduct an informal discussion or interview with other family members so as to ensure privacy for the interview. Nevertheless, we acknowledge that ensuring privacy may have been a problem, especially in low-income urban settings characterised by cramped housing conditions or that some youth may not have felt entirely at ease despite the extensive efforts made to ensure confidentiality. While findings are indeed in line with those observed in other small-scale and less representative studies (see Jejeebhoy and Sebastian, 2004 for a review), we acknowledge that romantic and sexual experiences may have been under-reported in the survey, notably by young women, and suggest that percentages presented here may be interpreted as conservative estimates.

9.2 Attitudes toward pre-marital physical intimacy and sexual relations

The Youth Study included a number of questions to assess young people's attitudes regarding the acceptability of pre-marital physical intimacy and sexual activity. Findings, presented in Table 9.1, suggest that young people's attitudes towards pre-marital physical intimacy and sex were generally negative. Indeed, few young men and women considered even pre-marital kissing to be acceptable. Young men were, by and large, more likely than young women to report accepting attitudes towards pre-marital kissing and sex. For example, 15%

Table 9.1: Attitudes toward pre-marital physical intimacy and sexual relations

Percent distribution of youth by attitudes towards pre-marital physical intimacy and sexual relations, according to residence, Bihar, 2007

Attitudes (%)	M 15–24	W 15–24	MM 15–29	MW 15–24	UM 15–24	UW 15–24
Combined						
Kissing before marriage is all right						
Agree	15.2	4.7	14.0	3.9	15.0	6.0
Disagree	75.4	93.9	79.8	95.0	74.6	91.9
A boy's future would be ruined if he has sex before marriage						
Agree	68.1	52.4	74.2	52.1	68.1	53.1
Disagree	24.7	44.4	22.2	45.2	23.9	42.5
A girl's future would be ruined if she has sex before marriage						
Agree	83.8	96.1	88.4	96.9	83.4	94.6
Disagree	10.6	3.2	8.9	2.8	10.4	3.8
Number of respondents	**1,942**	**5,529**	**1,115**	**2,341**	**1,492**	**3,188**
Urban						
Kissing before marriage is all right						
Agree	21.9	8.2	15.1	5.6	23.0	10.1
Disagree	70.3	90.7	79.6	93.7	68.9	88.5
A boy's future would be ruined if he has sex before marriage						
Agree	65.9	47.3	70.7	44.4	65.6	49.2
Disagree	28.3	50.4	26.1	53.5	28.3	48.2
A girl's future would be ruined if she has sex before marriage						
Agree	81.4	95.8	84.9	97.2	80.8	94.9
Disagree	14.3	3.6	11.8	2.8	14.7	4.2
Number of respondents	**1,039**	**2,581**	**547**	**1,136**	**833**	**1,445**
Rural						
Kissing before marriage is all right						
Agree	14.1	4.3	13.9	3.8	13.4	5.2
Disagree	76.2	94.3	79.8	95.1	75.9	92.5
A boy's future would be ruined if he has sex before marriage						
Agree	68.5	53.0	74.6	52.6	68.6	53.9
Disagree	24.2	43.7	21.8	44.7	23.1	41.5
A girl's future would be ruined if she has sex before marriage						
Agree	84.2	96.1	88.7	96.9	83.9	94.5
Disagree	10.0	3.1	8.7	2.8	9.5	3.7
Number of respondents	**903**	**2,948**	**568**	**1,205**	**659**	**1,743**

Note: All Ns are unweighted. Column totals may not equal 100% due to missing cases or "can't say" responses.

of young men compared to 5% of young women felt that it is all right for a boy and girl to kiss each other before marriage. Findings also indicate gendered attitudes towards pre-marital physical intimacy and sex. While one-quarter of young men and over two-fifths of young women condoned pre-marital sexual activity among young men, far fewer—11% of young men and 3% of young women—considered such behaviour acceptable among young women.

Differences by marital status of the respondent were negligible. Rural-urban differences were, however, notable on several issues. Youth in urban areas, particularly the unmarried, reported more liberal attitudes to pre-marital physical intimacy than those in rural areas. For example, 22% of urban young men compared to 14% of rural young men and 8% of urban young women compared to 4% of rural young women expressed the attitude that it is all right for a boy and girl to kiss each other before marriage. Moreover, somewhat larger percentages of urban than rural youth condoned pre-marital sexual activity among young men (28% versus 24% among young men and 50% versus 44% among young women). However, rural-urban differences were negligible with regard to the acceptability of pre-marital sexual activity among young women.

9.3 Pre-marital romantic relationships

In this section we present the prevalence of pre-marital opposite-sex romantic relationships among youth and a profile of those who engaged in such relationships. The section also describes parent and peer awareness of pre-marital romantic relationships, youth intentions regarding marriage with their romantic partners and the extent of physical contact experienced in these relationships.

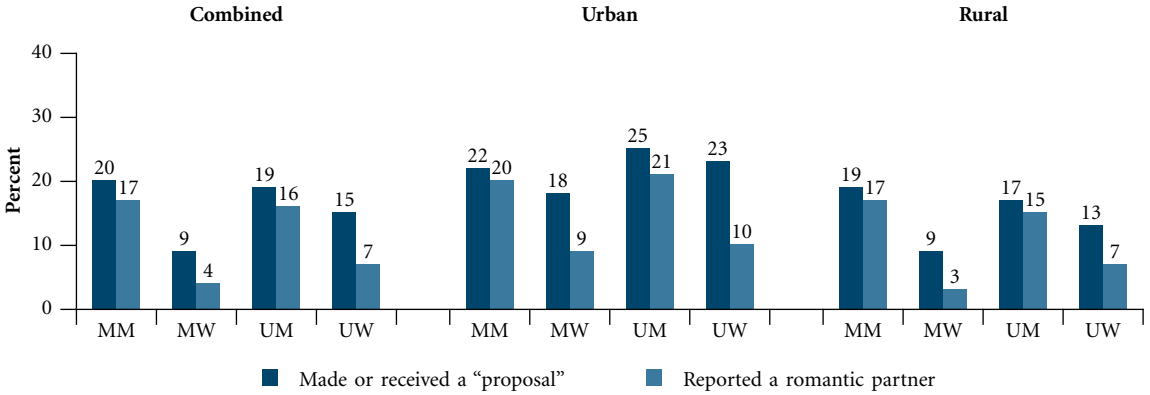
9.3.1 Prevalence of pre-marital romantic relationships

Despite the fact that youth tended to report relatively traditional attitudes, opportunities to form romantic relationships did exist for them, irrespective of sex or rural-urban residence of respondents. As shown in Table 9.2, many youth had either made a romantic "proposal" to an opposite-sex individual or had received such a "proposal". In total, 20% of young men and 12% of young women reported that they had ever made or received such a "proposal". Very few young women reported "proposing" to a man (0.3%); among young men, however, almost as many reported making a "proposal" as receiving one (10% and 12%, respectively, made and received a proposal) (not shown in tabular form), perhaps revealing a tendency either on the part of young men to exaggerate the extent of their interaction with women or on the part of young women to conceal behaviour that may be considered socially unacceptable.

Patterns of experience in initiating pre-marital romantic relationships by marital status indicate that while no differences were apparent among young men, somewhat fewer married than unmarried young women reported making or receiving a "proposal" (9% versus 15%) (see also Figure 9.1), a difference attributable perhaps to the limited number of years they spent prior to marriage as an adolescent. Rural-urban differences suggest that larger percentages of urban youth received or made a "proposal" compared to their rural counterparts (25% versus 19% among young men and 21% versus 10% among young women).

"Proposals" were conveyed through an intermediary—a friend, relative or sibling—in many cases; 3–6% of all youth reported that the "proposal" was conveyed through a mediator. This corresponds to over one-quarter of young men and women who had ever made or received a "proposal". Differences by marital status and rural-urban residence were negligible. Even so, married young women were somewhat more likely than the unmarried to report that the "proposals" they had made or received had been conveyed through an intermediary; 32% and 26% of married and unmarried young women who had ever made or received a "proposal", respectively, reported having used an intermediary.

Figure 9.1: Percentage of youth who had made or received a "proposal" for romantic partnership formation and percentage who had an opposite-sex romantic partner, according to residence, Bihar, 2007



Compared to those who had made or received "proposals," fewer youth, particularly young women, reported the acceptance of such a "proposal"; 16% of young men and 5% of young women reported that they had accepted a "proposal" or that their own "proposal" had been accepted. A roughly equal percentage reported that they had met an opposite-sex individual secretly. In total, in response to the direct or indirect questions, 17% of young men and 5% of young women acknowledged the experience of a romantic partnership. Differences by marital status and rural-urban residence were mild. Even so, urban youth, particularly married young women and unmarried young men, were somewhat more likely than their rural counterparts to report that they had ever had a romantic partner. Few youth—just 4% of young men and hardly any young women—reported that they had more than one romantic partner.

Table 9.3 presents the percentage of youth reporting pre-marital romantic experience by background characteristics. Age profiles indicate a positive association with the formation of romantic relationship among young men; while a strong positive association was observed among unmarried young men, the association was inconsistent among married young men. In contrast among young women, age differences were narrow, irrespective of marital status.

Differentials by religion were narrow among both young men and women, irrespective of marital status. Even though caste-wise differences were narrow, those belonging to general castes were more likely than others to report a pre-marital romantic relationship. Similar patterns were observed among both the married and the unmarried.

Findings also show a positive association between schooling and the formation of romantic relationship, perhaps a result of greater opportunities for mobility and social mixing offered by schooling. For example, the percentage of young men who reported a romantic partner increased from 8% among those without formal schooling to 30% among those who had completed 12 or more years of schooling. The corresponding percentages among young women were 3% and 12%, respectively. Patterns were similar for the married and the unmarried. Differences by work participation were narrow among both young men and women, irrespective of marital status.

Associations between household economic status and the formation of romantic partnership were inconsistent; even so, those belonging to households in the wealthiest quintile were more likely than others to report a romantic partnership.

Table 9.2: Pre-marital romantic relationships

Percentage of youth reporting a pre-marital romantic relationship by relationship characteristics, according to residence, Bihar, 2007

Characteristics (%)	M 15–24	W 15–24	MM 15–29	MW 15–24	UM 15–24	UW 15–24
Combined						
"Proposals" made/received and accepted						
Made or received a "proposal"	19.5	11.5	19.6	9.4	18.5	14.9
Made or received a "proposal" through a mediator	5.7	3.4	5.4	3.0	5.5	3.9
Accepted a "proposal"/"proposal" was accepted	15.7	4.8	16.1	3.5	14.5	6.8
Secret meetings with an opposite-sex individual						
Met secretly in any of five selected places[1]	15.5	4.3	14.9	3.2	14.5	6.2
Reported romantic relationships in one of the above or in direct question[2]						
Reported a romantic partner	17.0	4.9	16.8	3.6	16.0	7.1
Reported more than one romantic partner	3.7	0.2	2.7	0.3	4.0	0.2
Number of respondents	**1,942**	**5,529**	**1,115**	**2,341**	**1,492**	**3,188**
Urban						
"Proposals" made/received and accepted						
Made or received a "proposal"	25.1	20.6	21.7	17.6	24.6	22.6
Made or received a "proposal" through a mediator	6.8	5.5	5.4	4.9	6.9	5.7
Accepted a "proposal"/"proposal" was accepted	19.3	8.9	18.5	9.1	18.8	9.1
Secret meetings with an opposite-sex individual						
Met secretly in any of five selected places[1]	17.9	8.0	17.4	7.7	17.2	8.1
Reported romantic relationships in one of the above or in direct question[2]						
Reported a romantic partner	21.1	9.3	19.6	9.2	20.5	9.5
Reported more than one romantic partner	4.3	0.0	3.3	0.0	4.5	0.0
Number of respondents	**1,039**	**2,581**	**547**	**1,136**	**833**	**1,445**
Rural						
"Proposals" made/received and accepted						
Made or received a "proposal"	18.6	10.3	19.4	8.8	17.3	13.4
Made or received a "proposal" through a mediator	5.5	3.1	5.4	2.9	5.3	3.6
Accepted a "proposal"/"proposal" was accepted	15.2	4.2	15.8	3.2	13.6	6.4
Secret meetings with an opposite-sex individual						
Met secretly in any of five selected places[1]	15.1	3.8	14.7	2.9	13.9	5.9
Reported romantic relationships in one of the above or in direct question[2]						
Reported a romantic partner	16.3	4.4	16.5	3.3	15.1	6.7
Reported more than one romantic partner	3.6	0.3	2.6	0.3	3.8	0.3
Number of respondents	**903**	**2,948**	**568**	**1,205**	**659**	**1,743**

Note: All Ns are unweighted. [1]Behind or around a temple/mosque/church; around a school/college; at own or someone else's home in the absence of parents; in fields/grazing areas (rural) and restaurants (urban); or in a garden/park/maidan/market or haat. [2]Respondents were asked a direct question on whether or not they had ever had a boyfriend/girlfriend.

Table 9.3: Prevalence of pre-marital romantic relationships by selected background characteristics

Percentage of youth reporting a pre-marital romantic relationship by selected background characteristics, according to residence, Bihar, 2007

Background characteristics (%)	M 15–24	W 15–24	MM 15–29	MW 15–24	UM 15–24	UW 15–24
Combined						
Age (years)						
15–19	13.3	5.6	16.3	4.1	13.0	6.9
20–24	23.1	3.9	20.5	3.3	26.6	9.5
25–29	NA	NA	14.5	NA	NA	NA
Religion						
Hindu	17.5	4.8	17.0	3.3	16.2	7.5
Muslim	13.9	5.8	14.7	6.0	14.4	5.4
Caste						
SC	17.5	4.5	16.4	3.4	14.9	7.6
OBC	15.3	4.0	15.1	2.7	14.5	6.4
General[1]	20.8	9.6	23.8	10.8	19.2	8.5
Educational level (years)						
None[2]	7.6	2.9	9.2	2.5	8.6	4.7
1–7	14.6	4.9	20.2	3.1	11.0	6.8
8–11	18.4	8.4	17.0	8.0	18.0	8.7
12 or more	30.4	12.4	26.7	15.0	26.7	11.0
Worked in last 12 months						
Yes	18.1	4.7	16.6	3.6	17.2	6.7
No	14.3	5.1	(25.0)	3.7	13.8	7.4
Wealth quintile						
First	11.8	3.4	8.3	2.5	15.3	6.9
Second	15.3	4.2	13.5	3.5	13.7	6.3
Third	13.6	3.7	18.3	3.2	9.0	4.7
Fourth	17.2	4.4	16.1	3.1	17.6	6.4
Fifth	20.7	8.1	22.5	6.5	19.1	9.4
Total	**17.0**	**4.9**	**16.8**	**3.6**	**16.0**	**7.1**
Urban						
Age (years)						
15–19	17.2	9.1	*	10.3	17.4	8.8
20–24	26.5	9.5	25.0	8.7	27.4	12.1
25–29	NA	NA	17.2	NA	NA	NA
Religion						
Hindu	20.9	9.3	20.3	9.2	20.5	9.6
Muslim	21.3	9.2	15.4	8.3	20.9	9.1
Caste						
SC	17.9	11.8	21.4	13.0	17.4	12.5
OBC	19.9	8.2	15.3	8.6	19.7	8.4
General[1]	23.4	10.5	27.8	11.1	22.5	10.7

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Table 9.3: (Cont'd)

Background characteristics (%)	M 15–24	W 15–24	MM 15–29	MW 15–24	UM 15–24	UW 15–24
Urban						
Educational level (years)						
None[2]	13.8	8.5	10.5	7.8	14.3	8.3
1–7	20.0	7.2	16.7	5.9	19.0	7.1
8–11	19.8	10.3	20.6	12.5	18.8	9.5
12 or more	27.1	11.1	28.6	11.1	26.6	12.0
Worked in last 12 months						
Yes	23.3	11.5	18.4	5.9	23.5	11.9
No	17.4	8.9	(40.0)	8.9	17.7	8.8
Wealth quintile						
First	*	14.3	*	(20.0)	*	*
Second	(33.3)	8.6	(14.3)	9.1	(33.3)	10.0
Third	12.5	5.9	(12.5)	6.3	(14.3)	6.7
Fourth	14.6	8.9	11.8	8.3	15.4	8.3
Fifth	22.4	9.6	22.8	9.2	21.9	9.8
Total	**21.1**	**9.3**	**19.6**	**9.2**	**20.5**	**9.5**
Rural						
Age (years)						
15–19	12.7	5.2	(16.9)	3.8	12.3	6.6
20–24	22.4	3.1	20.1	2.8	26.3	7.8
25–29	NA	NA	14.3	NA	NA	NA
Religion						
Hindu	16.9	4.2	16.8	3.0	15.4	7.1
Muslim	12.4	5.2	14.8	5.3	12.7	4.8
Caste						
SC	17.2	4.0	16.1	3.0	14.6	7.0
OBC	14.6	3.5	15.0	2.4	13.5	6.1
General[1]	20.1	9.3	23.1	11.2	18.4	7.9
Educational level (years)						
None[2]	7.0	2.7	9.1	2.3	7.8	4.4
1–7	14.3	4.7	20.5	2.9	9.9	6.8
8–11	18.1	7.9	16.6	7.3	17.9	8.5
12 or more	31.8	13.6	25.7	16.3	26.8	9.7
Worked in last 12 months						
Yes	17.4	4.4	16.4	3.4	16.3	6.3
No	13.2	4.4	*	3.2	12.7	7.0
Wealth quintile						
First	11.4	3.3	8.4	2.3	15.5	6.8
Second	14.3	4.0	13.0	3.3	12.5	6.1
Third	13.7	3.6	18.5	3.1	8.7	4.7
Fourth	17.7	4.1	16.5	2.8	18.1	6.2
Fifth	19.9	7.3	22.7	5.7	17.8	9.1
Total	**16.3**	**4.4**	**16.5**	**3.3**	**15.1**	**6.7**

*Note: ( ) Based on 25–49 unweighted cases. *Percentage not shown, based on fewer than 25 unweighted cases. NA: Not applicable. OBC: Other backward caste. SC: Scheduled caste. ST: Scheduled tribe. [1]Includes all those not belonging to SC, ST or OBC. [2]Includes non-literate and literate with no formal schooling.*

Similar patterns of socio-demographic differentials were observed, by and large, among rural and urban respondents.

9.3.2 Characteristics of pre-marital romantic relationships

Selected characteristics of reported pre-marital romantic relationships are presented in Table 9.4; in cases in which more than one romantic partner was reported, only information relating to the respondent's first romantic relationship was included. Age at initiation of pre-marital romantic relationships was measured by the age at which they first spent time alone with their partner.

Findings indicate that relationships were initiated at a young age for considerably large proportions of those who had experienced pre-marital romantic relationships. Almost half of young men (47%) and almost three-fifths of young women (58%) reported that they had spent time alone with their first romantic partner at age 15 or below. Unmarried young men were somewhat more likely than married young men to have initiated a romantic relationship at age 15 or below (47% versus 41%); in contrast, among young women, it was the married who were more likely to have initiated their relationship at age 15 or below (64% versus 53%). Youth in rural areas were more likely than those in urban areas to have initiated a pre-marital romantic relationship at age 15 or below (49% compared to 39% among young men and 61% compared to 44% among young women). Median ages of respondents when they first spent time alone with their pre-marital romantic partner were approximately one year older among young men than among young women (16 years and 15 years, respectively), and one year older among unmarried compared to married young women (15 and 14, respectively), but identical among married and unmarried young men (16 years). Rural-urban differences suggest that median age at initiation of romantic relationships was identical among young men in both rural and urban areas (16 years) and one-and-a-half years later among urban young women compared to their rural counterparts (15.5 years versus 14 years). Information on the relative ages of reported partners suggests that male partners were, for the most part, older than female partners. For example, 71% of young men reported a female partner who was younger than they were, while 78% of young women reported a male partner who was older than they were. It is also notable that 10% of young men reported a female partner who was older than they were. Overwhelmingly, the partner was unmarried.

The first reported romantic partner was typically a neighbour or friend from the village or urban community (37% among young men and 34% among young women). One-third of young men compared to almost one-fifth of young women reported an acquaintance from outside the village/urban community, and almost one-fifth of young men and one in eight young women reported a fellow student or colleague as the initial partner. Conversely, almost one-third of young women compared to 9% of young men reported that their first pre-marital partner was a relative. These gender differences may be attributed to the more limited mobility and access to social mixing opportunities that young women experienced in relation to young men, described in Chapter 7.

These patterns were fairly consistent among both married and unmarried youth. Nonetheless, married young men were less likely than unmarried young men to report a fellow student or colleague (11% versus 21%) and more likely to report a neighbour or friend from the village or urban community (45% versus 37%) as the first romantic partner. Among young women, the married were more likely than the unmarried to report a relative (37% versus 25%) and less likely to report an acquaintance from outside the village/urban community (12% versus 25%).

Rural-urban differences were apparent. Rural young men were more likely to report a neighbour or friend from the village or urban community or an acquaintance from outside of the home community than were urban young men. Conversely, urban young men were more likely than their rural counterparts to report a fellow student or colleague (36% versus 14%). Moreover, married young men in urban settings were somewhat more likely than their rural counterparts to report a relative (17% versus 11%). Rural-urban differences were modest for the overall sample of young women. However, among the married, those in rural areas were more likely to report a relative (39% versus 23%) and less likely to report a neighbour or friend from the village/urban community (33% versus 39%) than were those in urban areas. Among the unmarried, rural young women were more likely than urban young women to report an acquaintance from outside the village/urban community (27% versus 15%).

Respondents had typically been acquainted with their first romantic partner for one year or more before becoming romantically linked; this was consistently observed in all groups, irrespective of sex, marital status and rural-urban residence. Many—18% of young men and 11% of young women—reported that they had been acquainted with the partner since childhood, a finding not surprising given that a sizeable proportion of partners were either from the same neighbourhood or, among young women, relatives. Differences by sex, marital status and place of residence were modest. Even so, somewhat more married than unmarried young men reported shorter duration acquaintance (less than 12 months of acquaintance, 27% compared to 21%). Likewise, more rural young women, particularly the unmarried, reported shorter duration acquaintance than were urban young women.

The majority of youth reported that their partners came from religious backgrounds similar to their own, irrespective of sex, marital status or place of residence; 92–95% reported as such. Even so, somewhat more unmarried youth in urban areas reported a partner from a different religion, compared to those in rural areas (8–13% versus 3–4%). With respect to partner's caste, findings suggest that even though the majority of youth reported a partner from similar caste backgrounds, as many as 37% of young men and 27% of young women did engage in a romantic relationship with someone of a different caste. While married young men were more likely than the unmarried to so report (46% versus 33%), differences were modest among young women (25–27%). Urban youth were more likely than rural youth to report as such, irrespective of marital status (54% versus 33% among young men and 39% versus 23% among young women). With respect to household economic status, almost half of young men (47%) and one-third of young women reported that the partner was from a family with a similar socio-economic status to their own. Of note, however, is that 35% of young men and 57% of young women reported a romantic partner from a better-off family. Unmarried youth were more likely than their married counterparts to report a partner from a different economic background (53% versus 48% among young men and 68% versus 62% among young women). Likewise, more rural than urban youth reported a partner from a different economic background (52% versus 48% among young men and 67% versus 56% among young women).

Table 9.5 presents youth responses to questions regarding places in which youth met their first romantic partner secretly, without adults present. The vast majority of youth who reported romantic relationships met secretly in each other's homes when other family members were absent (46% of young men and 48% of young women). Sizeable proportions of youth reported having met their romantic partner secretly in other places that offered them privacy or anonymity, including parks and gardens (13–29%), fields or grazing areas (15–24%), cinema/theatre halls (6–12%) and behind temples/mosques/churches (10–13%). One-tenth of young men and one in eight young women reported not meeting their romantic partner anywhere in secret. Differences by marital status and place of residence were modest, except that more urban than rural young men reported not meeting their romantic partner anywhere in secret (17% versus 8%).

Table 9.4: Characteristics of pre-marital romantic relationships and partners

Percentage of youth reporting a pre-marital romantic relationship by age at initiation of relationship, partner's socio-economic and demographic characteristics, and nature and duration of prior acquaintance, according to residence, Bihar, 2007

Characteristics (%)[1]	M 15–24	W 15–24	MM 15–29	MW 15–24	UM 15–24	UW 15–24
Combined						
Age when respondent first spent time alone with partner (years)						
15 or below	47.0	57.9	41.2	63.5	47.1	53.3
Median age when respondent first spent time alone with partner	16.0	15.0	16.0	14.0	16.0	15.0
Age of partner						
Younger than respondent	70.6	0.7	72.2	0.0	67.6	0.4
Same age as respondent	16.8	7.0	18.7	4.7	18.9	9.3
Older than respondent	9.9	77.9	5.3	84.7	10.9	71.7
Don't remember	2.7	14.3	3.7	10.6	2.5	18.6
Partner's marital status						
Unmarried	97.0	94.9	96.3	94.0	96.6	95.6
Married	3.0	5.1	2.7	6.0	3.4	4.4
Nature of prior acquaintance with first partner						
Relative	9.3	30.8	11.2	36.9	7.6	25.1
Fellow student/colleague	17.7	13.2	11.2	11.9	20.6	14.1
Neighbour/friend	37.2	33.7	44.9	34.5	37.0	33.0
Family friend	0.0	0.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.4
Person from outside village/neighbourhood	33.3	18.3	29.4	11.9	32.4	25.1
Other[2]	2.4	3.7	3.2	4.8	2.5	2.2
Duration of acquaintance						
Less than 1 month	9.3	8.1	10.7	9.5	7.6	6.6
1–11 months	15.3	16.8	16.6	14.3	13.0	19.4
12 months or more	57.8	63.7	46.5	63.1	58.4	64.8
Since childhood	17.7	11.4	26.2	13.1	21.0	9.3
Partner's religion						
Same as respondent	95.2	92.3	91.0	91.8	94.6	93.8
Different from respondent	4.5	7.3	8.0	8.2	5.0	5.7
Partner's caste						
Same as respondent	62.3	72.2	52.4	72.9	66.8	72.1
Different from respondent	36.5	26.7	45.5	24.7	32.8	27.4
Partner's socio-economic status						
Same as respondent	46.6	34.4	48.7	37.6	45.8	30.8
Better than respondent	35.2	57.1	30.5	55.3	37.8	59.9
Worse than respondent	15.8	8.1	17.1	7.1	14.7	8.4
Number reporting a romantic relationship	**368**	**395**	**203**	**143**	**270**	**252**

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Table 9.4: (Cont'd)

Characteristics (%)[1]	M 15–24	W 15–24	MM 15–29	MW 15–24	UM 15–24	UW 15–24
Urban						
Age when respondent first spent time alone with partner (years)						
15 or below	39.0	44.1	27.8	53.8	40.0	39.1
Median age when respondent first spent time alone with partner	16.0	15.5	17.0	15.0	16.0	16.0
Age of partner						
Younger than respondent	67.8	3.4	72.2	0.0	66.0	2.1
Same age as respondent	25.4	6.8	22.2	7.7	26.0	8.5
Older than respondent	5.1	76.3	5.6	69.2	6.0	80.9
Don't remember	1.7	13.6	0.0	23.1	2.0	8.5
Partner's marital status						
Unmarried	100.0	98.3	94.4	100.0	100.0	100.0
Married	0.0	1.7	5.6	0.0	0.0	0.0
Nature of prior acquaintance with first partner						
Relative	6.8	26.7	16.7	23.1	5.9	27.1
Fellow student/colleague	35.6	15.0	16.7	15.4	39.2	16.7
Neighbour/friend	32.2	35.0	38.9	38.5	31.4	31.3
Family friend	0.0	1.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	2.1
Person from outside village/neighbourhood	23.7	15.0	27.8	15.4	21.6	14.6
Other[2]	1.7	6.7	0.0	7.7	2.0	8.3
Duration of acquaintance						
Less than 1 month	6.8	8.3	11.1	7.7	6.0	6.4
1–11 months	16.9	13.3	22.2	15.4	18.0	12.8
12 months or more	62.7	66.7	55.6	61.5	62.0	70.2
Since childhood	13.6	11.7	11.1	15.4	14.0	10.6
Partner's religion						
Same as respondent	89.8	89.8	88.9	92.3	90.2	87.0
Different from respondent	8.5	10.2	11.1	7.7	7.8	13.0
Partner's caste						
Same as respondent	44.1	61.0	47.1	69.2	45.1	53.2
Different from respondent	54.2	39.0	52.9	30.8	52.9	46.8
Partner's socio-economic status						
Same as respondent	49.2	42.4	55.6	46.2	47.1	41.3
Better than respondent	33.9	47.5	33.3	46.2	33.3	50.0
Worse than respondent	13.6	8.5	11.1	7.7	15.7	8.7
Number reporting a romantic relationship	**220**	**238**	**109**	**102**	**170**	**136**

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Table 9.4: (Cont'd)

Characteristics (%)[1]	M 15–24	W 15–24	MM 15–29	MW 15–24	UM 15–24	UW 15–24
Rural						
Age when respondent first spent time alone with partner (years)						
15 or below	48.6	61.4	42.0	(65.3)	48.9	57.2
Median age when respondent first spent time alone with partner	16.0	14.0	16.0	(13.0)	16.0	15.0
Age of partner						
Younger than respondent	70.9	0.0	72.2	(0.0)	67.9	0.0
Same age as respondent	15.3	7.0	18.9	(4.2)	17.1	9.6
Older than respondent	10.9	78.4	5.3	(87.5)	12.3	69.1
Don't remember	2.9	14.6	3.6	(8.3)	2.7	21.3
Partner's marital status						
Unmarried	96.4	93.9	96.4	(93.1)	95.7	95.0
Married	3.6	6.1	2.4	(6.9)	4.3	5.0
Nature of prior acquaintance with first partner						
Relative	9.9	31.9	10.7	(38.9)	8.0	24.9
Fellow student/colleague	13.9	12.7	11.2	(12.5)	15.5	13.8
Neighbour/friend	38.0	33.3	45.6	(33.3)	38.5	33.1
Family friend	0.0	0.0	0.0	(0.0)	0.0	0.0
Person from outside village/neighbourhood	35.4	19.2	29.0	(11.1)	35.3	27.1
Other[2]	2.9	2.8	3.6	(4.2)	2.7	1.1
Duration of acquaintance						
Less than 1 month	9.8	7.9	11.2	(9.6)	8.0	6.1
1–11 months	14.9	18.2	16.0	(15.1)	11.7	21.1
12 months or more	56.7	62.6	45.6	(61.6)	57.4	63.3
Since childhood	18.5	11.2	27.2	(13.7)	22.9	9.4
Partner's religion						
Same as respondent	96.4	93.0	91.2	(90.4)	95.7	96.1
Different from respondent	3.6	6.5	7.6	(9.6)	4.3	3.3
Partner's caste						
Same as respondent	66.1	75.2	53.0	(72.6)	72.3	77.2
Different from respondent	32.8	23.4	44.6	(24.7)	27.7	22.2
Partner's socio-economic status						
Same as respondent	46.0	32.1	47.3	(36.1)	45.2	28.2
Better than respondent	35.5	59.5	30.2	(56.9)	38.8	62.4
Worse than respondent	16.3	7.9	18.3	(6.9)	14.9	8.8
Number reporting a romantic relationship	**148**	**157**	**94**	**41**	**100**	**116**

Note: All Ns are unweighted. Column totals may not equal 100% due to missing cases or "don't know" responses. ( ) Based on 25–49 unweighted cases. [1]First romantic partner, if more than one romantic partner reported. [2]Includes employee, employer, teacher, other acquaintance and stranger.

Table 9.5: Meeting places with pre-marital romantic partners

Percentage of youth reporting a pre-marital romantic relationship by places where they met their partner secretly, according to residence, Bihar, 2007

Meeting places (%)[1]	M 15–24	W 15–24	MM 15–29	MW 15–24	UM 15–24	UW 15–24
Combined						
Each other's home	46.4	48.4	40.6	50.6	47.9	46.3
Temple/mosque/church	9.6	12.8	4.3	9.4	10.9	15.0
Cinema/theatre	12.3	5.9	14.4	8.2	10.5	4.0
Park/garden	29.0	12.8	34.8	11.8	29.0	13.7
Restaurant/eating place	7.2	9.9	4.8	10.6	7.1	7.5
Jungle/riverside	4.8	4.8	4.3	5.9	4.2	4.4
Field/grazing area	24.3	14.7	36.4	9.4	19.7	20.7
Other places	0.6	0.7	1.1	2.4	0.8	0.0
Never met unaccompanied	9.6	12.5	7.0	11.9	11.3	12.8
Number reporting a romantic relationship	**368**	**395**	**203**	**143**	**270**	**252**
Urban						
Each other's home	39.0	50.8	33.3	53.8	40.0	51.1
Temple/mosque/church	15.3	16.9	16.7	16.7	15.7	17.0
Cinema/theatre	11.9	8.5	16.7	15.4	11.8	6.4
Park/garden	39.0	13.8	44.4	15.4	36.0	14.9
Restaurant/eating place	18.6	20.3	22.2	15.4	18.0	23.4
Jungle/riverside	1.7	1.7	5.6	0.0	2.0	0.0
Field/grazing area	5.1	5.1	11.1	8.3	4.0	0.0
Other places	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Never met unaccompanied	16.9	13.6	11.1	15.4	19.6	14.9
Number reporting a romantic relationship	**220**	**238**	**109**	**102**	**170**	**136**
Rural						
Each other's home	48.0	47.7	41.4	(50.0)	50.3	45.0
Temple/mosque/church	8.4	11.2	3.0	(8.3)	9.6	14.4
Cinema/theatre	12.4	5.1	14.2	(6.9)	10.1	3.3
Park/garden	26.9	12.1	33.7	(11.1)	26.7	13.3
Restaurant/eating place	4.7	6.6	3.0	(9.7)	3.7	3.3
Jungle/riverside	5.5	6.1	4.1	(6.9)	4.8	5.0
Field/grazing area	28.4	17.4	39.1	(9.7)	23.9	25.6
Other places	0.7	0.9	1.2	(2.7)	1.1	0.0
Never met unaccompanied	8.0	12.1	6.5	(12.5)	9.6	12.2
Number reporting a romantic relationship	**148**	**157**	**94**	**41**	**100**	**116**

Note: All Ns are unweighted. Column totals may exceed 100% due to multiple responses. ( ) Based on 25–49 unweighted cases. [1]*First romantic partner, if more than one romantic partner reported.*

9.3.3 Parental and peer awareness of romantic partnerships

Table 9.6 reports findings on peer and parental awareness of young people's romantic partnerships. Youth overwhelmingly (77–78%) reported that their peers were aware of their romantic relationships. Differences by marital status and rural-urban residence were muted, except that more urban than rural young men reported peer awareness of romantic relationship (85% compared to 77%).

Relatively few youth reported that their parents were aware of these partnerships. Young women were more likely than young men to report that parents were aware of their relationship (37% and 23%, respectively). The married were more likely to report parental awareness than the unmarried and the differences were more pronounced among young women (28% and 23% of young men and 46% and 27% of young women, respectively). Moreover, urban youth were more likely to report parental awareness than their rural counterparts (36% versus 20% among young men and 46% versus 34% among young women). Gender differences may be explained by the fact that young women, who tend to be more strictly supervised, would have had fewer opportunities to hide a relationship from their parents than young men. Differences by marital status may be attributed to the fact that revelation of the relationship could itself have triggered marriage, either to the same person or someone else, as seen in the panel on parental reactions. Rural-urban differences may be attributable to the fact that activities associated with rural life—fetching water and fuel, agricultural tasks and so on—required youth and their parents to be away from home for extended periods on a routine basis and may have provided rural youth more opportunities to pursue relationships without parental awareness.

The reported reactions of those parents who became aware of their children's pre-marital romantic relationships are presented in Table 9.6. Given the small numbers, we provide findings for the rural and urban populations together. Parents' reported reactions varied between young men and young women. Larger percentages of young women than men reported negative reactions. Two-fifths of young women (41%) and one-third of young men (35%) reported that their parents had shouted at them and 19% and 13%, respectively, reported that their parents had beaten them. Almost one-fifth of young women (18%) reported that they were not permitted to go out. In comparison, not a single young man reported as such. Another one-fifth of young women (20%) and almost one-quarter (23%) of young men were forbidden from meeting the partner. Among young women, 3% were withdrawn from school as a result.

For considerable percentages of young women, parents reacted by arranging their marriages to the romantic partner (15%) or to someone else (16%), perhaps in order to protect the family's honour. In contrast, few young men reported that their parents reacted in this way (3–5%).

Notably, many parents either accepted the situation or did not react at all to the knowledge of their child's romantic relationship (39% and 35% of young men and women, respectively). One in three parents of young men (30%) compared to few parents of young women (13%) reacted by advising their sons or daughters, for example, not to let school performance suffer as a result of the relationship.

9.3.4 Marriage intentions and duration of pre-marital romantic relationships

The questionnaire probed all respondents who reported a relationship about their intentions to marry their romantic partner. Findings are reported in Table 9.7 and suggest young women were twice as likely as young men to report that they intended to marry either the first or most recent partner (81% versus 40%), a finding observed in other studies as well (Alexander et al., 2006a; 2006b). Differences by marital status suggest that married youth were somewhat more likely to have reported this intention than the unmarried (47% versus 41% among young men and 84% versus 78% among young women). Urban young men were more likely to report marital intentions than rural young men (51% versus 38%), but no such differences were evident among young women.

Table 9.6: Peer and parental awareness of first pre-marital romantic relationship

Percentage of youth reporting a pre-marital romantic relationship by peer and parental awareness of the first romantic relationship and parents' reaction, according to residence, Bihar, 2007

Awareness and reactions (%)[1]	M 15–24	W 15–24	MM 15–29	MW 15–24	UM 15–24	UW 15–24
Combined						
Friends aware of relationship	78.1	77.3	76.5	75.3	77.8	78.9
Parents aware of relationship	23.1	36.6	27.8	45.9	23.1	26.9
Number reporting a romantic relationship	**368**	**395**	**203**	**143**	**270**	**252**
Urban						
Friends aware of relationship	84.7	78.0	83.3	76.9	84.0	78.3
Parents aware of relationship	35.6	45.8	44.4	50.0	34.0	42.6
Number reporting a romantic relationship	**220**	**238**	**109**	**102**	**170**	**136**
Rural						
Friends aware of relationship	76.7	77.1	75.7	(75.3)	76.1	79.0
Parents aware of relationship	20.4	34.1	26.6	(45.2)	19.8	22.8
Number reporting a romantic relationship	**148**	**157**	**94**	**41**	**100**	**116**
Combined						
Parents' reaction						
Shouted at respondent	35.1	41.0	42.3	41.0	37.0	41.7
Beat respondent	13.0	19.2	13.5	20.5	16.4	20.0
Did not allow respondent to go out	0.0	18.2	0.0	15.4	0.0	23.3
Stopped respondent from meeting partner	23.1	20.0	19.2	15.4	18.2	26.7
Forced respondent to discontinue education	0.0	3.0	3.8	5.1	0.0	0.0
Reported to/shouted at partner's family	0.0	5.0	0.0	5.1	0.0	5.0
Arranged marriage with partner	5.1	15.2	3.8	17.9	3.6	9.8
Arranged marriage with someone else	2.6	16.2	3.8	28.2	0.0	0.0
No reaction/accepted the situation	38.5	35.0	28.8	30.8	32.7	40.0
Advised respondent, including not to let school/college performance suffer	29.5	13.0	34.6	12.8	34.5	11.5
Number whose parents were aware of relationship	**112**	**153**	**71**	**70**	**79**	**83**

Note: All Ns are unweighted. Column totals may exceed 100% due to multiple responses. Reporting of parents' reactions is presented for rural and urban combined due to small numbers. ( ) Based on 25–49 unweighted cases. [1]First romantic partner, if more than one romantic partner reported.

Reality, in terms of outcomes of romantic relationships, was different from intention. For example, while 84% of married young women had intended to marry their pre-marital partners, just 32% reported having done so; among married young men 47% reported an intention to marry their pre-marital partner, yet just 4% reported doing so. The rural-urban differences observed for intentions persisted in outcomes as well: among married young women, 46% of the urban compared to 30% of the rural, had married their pre-marital romantic partner. Corresponding percentages among married young men were 17% and 3%, respectively.

The majority of unmarried youth were still in a relationship at the time of interview (56% of young men and 82% of young women); rural-urban differences were modest. Of note was that among the married, 18% of young men and 8% of young women reported continuing a relationship with their pre-marital partner even after marriage, with more urban married young women reporting as such than their rural counterparts.

Table 9.7: Marriage intentions and duration of pre-marital romantic relationships

Percentage of youth reporting a pre-marital romantic relationship by intention to marry partner, current relationship status and duration of relationship, according to residence, Bihar, 2007

Marriage intentions, relationship status and duration of relationship (%)[1]	M 15–24	W 15–24	MM 15–29	MW 15–24	UM 15–24	UW 15–24
Combined						
Marriage intentions and outcomes						
Intended to marry pre-marital partner	39.8	80.6	47.1	83.5	40.8	77.9
Married pre-marital partner	NA	NA	3.8	31.8	NA	NA
Relationship status						
Currently continuing relationship	45.5	45.8	17.6	8.2	55.9	81.5
Number reporting a romantic relationship	**368**	**395**	**203**	**143**	**270**	**252**
Duration of longest reported relationship (months)						
Less than[1]	2.8	0.0	3.4	0.0	0.0	(0.0)
1–6	14.2	26.9	17.0	22.0	14.4	(42.9)
7–12	25.0	22.1	23.8	22.0	21.2	(19.0)
13–24	31.8	33.7	32.7	38.0	32.7	(23.8)
25 or more	26.1	17.3	23.1	18.0	31.7	(14.3)
Number who discontinued relationship	**179**	**115**	**152**	**70**	**112**	**45**
Urban						
Marriage intentions and outcomes						
Intended to marry pre-marital partner	50.8	79.7	61.1	84.6	47.1	78.3
Married pre-marital partner	NA	NA	16.7	46.2	NA	NA
Relationship status						
Currently continuing relationship	53.4	54.2	16.7	15.4	60.0	82.6
Number reporting a romantic relationship	**220**	**238**	**109**	**102**	**170**	**136**
Duration of longest reported relationship (months)						
Less than[1]	0.0	0.0	7.1	(0.0)	0.0	*
1–6	19.2	25.0	21.4	(20.0)	15.0	*
7–12	23.1	37.5	7.1	(40.0)	25.0	*
13–24	34.6	18.8	28.6	(20.0)	35.0	*
25 or more	23.1	18.8	35.7	(20.0)	25.0	*
Number who discontinued relationship	**99**	**67**	**78**	**44**	**67**	**23**
Rural						
Marriage intentions and outcomes						
Intended to marry pre-marital partner	37.5	80.8	45.6	(83.6)	38.8	77.8
Married pre-marital partner	NA	NA	3.0	(30.1)	NA	NA
Relationship status						
Currently continuing relationship	43.6	43.5	17.8	(6.9)	54.5	81.1
Number reporting a romantic relationship	**148**	**157**	**94**	**41**	**100**	**116**
Duration of longest reported relationship (months)						
Less than[1]	3.3	(0.0)	3.0	(0.0)	(0.0)	*
1–6	13.8	(27.3)	16.4	(22.2)	(14.1)	*
7–12	25.7	(19.3)	25.4	(20.0)	(21.2)	*
13–24	30.9	(36.4)	32.8	(40.0)	(31.8)	*
25 or more	26.3	(17.0)	22.4	(17.8)	(32.9)	*
Number who discontinued relationship	**80**	**48**	**74**	**26**	**45**	**22**

*Note: All Ns are unweighted. Column totals may not equal 100% due to missing cases or "don't know" responses. ( ) Based on 25–49 unweighted cases. *Percentage not shown, based on fewer than 25 unweighted cases. NA: Not applicable. [1]Data on marriage intentions, relationship status and duration of relationship were collected only with regard to the first and/or most recent partner. These data were not available for 96 young men and 3 young women who reported more than two romantic partners.*

Among those who had discontinued their romantic relationship (the longest relationship, if more than one romantic partner was reported), relationships extended over fairly long time periods (more than one year for 58% and 51% of young men and women, respectively). Gender differences were more pronounced for urban than for overall or rural samples, with 58% of young men compared to 38% of young women in urban areas reporting longer duration relationships. While unmarried young men were more likely than the married to report that relationships extended over a year (64% versus 56%), a reverse pattern was evident among young women (38% versus 56%). While rural-urban differences were muted among young men, these were wide among young women, with more rural than urban young women reporting longer duration relationships (53% versus 38%).

9.3.5 Pre-marital physical intimacy and sex with a romantic partner

Respondents who reported a pre-marital romantic relationship were asked whether they had engaged in a number of intimate behaviours with their romantic partner. These behaviours ranged from those reflecting minimal physical intimacy (hand-holding, hugging) to those reflecting increased physical intimacy (kissing on the lips) and finally, engaging in sexual relations. Findings, presented in Table 9.8, refer to youth experiences of physical intimacy with their first and/or most recent romantic partner, if more than one.

While the large majority of youth had held hands with any romantic partner, consistently fewer reported progressively more intimate behaviours. Gender differences in reporting of such experiences narrowed somewhat between reports of hand-holding and progressively more intimate forms of behaviour. For example, 87% of young men compared to 70% of young women reported holding hands with any romantic partner. In comparison, 63% of young men compared to 48% of young women, reported kissing their romantic partners, and 40% of young men compared to 30% of young women reported engaging in sex with one or more romantic partners.

Differences by marital status suggest that more married than unmarried young men reported each of these intimate behaviours (see also Figure 9.2). Similar patterns prevailed among young women as well, except in respect of holding hands, which roughly similar proportions of both married and unmarried young women reported. Rural-urban differences suggest that, aside from handholding, reported by equal proportions of young men and women, rural youth were more likely than urban youth to report more intimate behaviours including hugging, kissing and engaging in sex. The differences were widest in regard to engaging in sex; 45% and 35% of rural young men and women, respectively, compared to 19% and 15% of urban young men and women, respectively, reported pre-marital sex with a romantic partner, a finding that may be attributed to the greater opportunities for privacy in rural areas.

In short, findings confirm that pre-marital romantic relationships among youth almost always included some form of physical intimacy. Moreover, two-fifths of young men and almost one-third of young women who reported pre-marital romantic relationships had experienced sex with a romantic partner.

9.3.6 Characteristics of sexual experiences within pre-marital romantic relationships

The Youth Study asked all respondents reporting pre-marital sex with a romantic partner about fears of pregnancy or infection at the time of first sex, condom and contraceptive decision-making and use at first and subsequent sexual encounters with a romantic sexual partner, and the consensual nature of first sex. Findings are presented in Table 9.9. Given the small numbers of respondents reporting this experience, particularly among young women, we provide combined rural-urban findings for married and unmarried young men and women.

Figure 9.2: Percentage of youth reporting experiences of physical intimacy and sex with a pre-marital romantic partner, Bihar, 2007

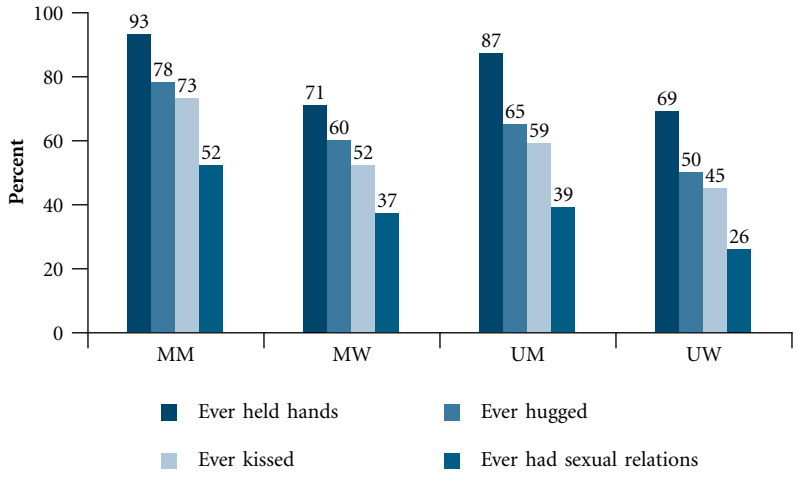


Table 9.8: Physical intimacy and sexual experiences in pre-marital romantic relationships

Percentage of youth reporting a pre-marital romantic relationship by experiences of physical intimacy and sex with their partner, according to residence, Bihar, 2007

Physical intimacy (%)[1]	M 15–24	W 15–24	MM 15–29	MW 15–24	UM 15–24	UW 15–24
Combined						
Ever held hands	87.4	69.6	93.0	70.6	86.6	68.7
Ever hugged	66.8	54.4	77.5	59.5	65.1	50.2
Ever kissed	62.6	47.6	73.3	51.8	59.2	44.5
Ever had sexual relations	40.1	30.0	52.4	36.5	38.7	25.6
Number reporting a romantic relationship	**368**	**395**	**203**	**143**	**270**	**252**
Urban						
Ever held hands	86.4	69.5	94.4	75.0	86.0	68.1
Ever hugged	55.9	48.3	66.7	53.8	52.9	44.7
Ever kissed	49.2	40.7	61.1	46.2	46.0	38.3
Ever had sexual relations	18.6	15.3	27.8	23.1	18.0	8.5
Number reporting a romantic relationship	**220**	**238**	**109**	**102**	**170**	**136**
Rural						
Ever held hands	87.6	69.2	93.5	(69.4)	87.2	68.9
Ever hugged	68.8	56.1	78.6	(61.1)	68.4	51.4
Ever kissed	65.5	49.3	74.6	(52.8)	62.8	46.1
Ever had sexual relations	44.7	34.6	55.0	(38.9)	44.1	30.0
Number reporting a romantic relationship	**148**	**157**	**94**	**41**	**100**	**116**

Note: All Ns are unweighted. ( ) Based on 25–49 unweighted cases. [1]Data on ever held hands, ever hugged and ever kissed pertain to the first or most recent partner, if more than one partner was reported. Data on pre-marital sexual relations pertain not only to the first or most recent partner, but also to other romantic partners, if more than two romantic partners were reported.

Among those who reported sexual experience within pre-marital romantic relationships, many more young women than men reported fear of pregnancy or infection. For example, fear of pregnancy was reported by 43% of young men and 59% of young women; fear of infection was reported by 18% of young men and 35% of young women. Married young men were as likely as the unmarried to report fear of pregnancy (43–45%), but were more likely to report fear of infection (21% versus 12%).

Reported contraceptive use at first pre-marital sex with a romantic partner and consistent contraceptive use in subsequent sexual encounters were limited. In total, just 23% of young men and 6% of young women reported using contraception at first sex and 19% and 6%, respectively, reported that it was consistently practised in all sexual encounters with their romantic opposite-sex partner(s). More unmarried than married young men reported using contraception at first sex (25% compared to 17%). Consistent contraceptive use was also more likely to be reported by the unmarried than the married.

Condom use was limited. Just 17% of young men and 5% of young women reported having used a condom during their first sexual encounter with a romantic partner. Even so, it is clear that the majority of those who practised contraception at first sex used a condom (74% of young men and 80% of young women).

Most youth reporting condom use at first sex reported that they had continued to use condoms in all sexual encounters with their romantic partner(s)—16% of young men and 4% of young women. All young men and three-quarters of young women who used a condom at first sex reported doing so for pregnancy prevention. In comparison, 86% of young men and all young women who reported condom use at first sex reported doing so to prevent infection.

Youth reports of decision-making regarding contraceptive use at first pre-marital sex with an opposite-sex romantic partner reveal that young women were relatively disadvantaged. For example, responses of both young men and women suggest that the decision to practise contraception at first sex typically did not involve the female partner, either as the sole or joint decision-maker. While 23% of young men and 6% of young women had practised contraception at first sex with an opposite-sex romantic partner, just 8% and 2% of young men and women, respectively, reported that the female partner had participated in the decision.

While the majority of young men and women reported that their first experience of pre-marital sex with an opposite-sex romantic partner was consensual, several youth reported that it occurred without consent. Gender differences were wide in this respect. For example, 78% of young men reported that sex was consensual, compared to 51% of young women. Over one-fifth of young women (22%) reported that their opposite-sex romantic partner had forced them to engage in sex the first time; in contrast, 5% of young men acknowledged that they had forced their partner to do so. One-quarter of young women (26%) and 8% of young men reported that the male partner had persuaded the female partner to engage in sexual relations. Very few youth reported that the female partner had persuaded (7% and 1% of young men and women, respectively) or forced (3% and none, respectively) the male partner to engage in sex.

Differences by marital status suggest that somewhat more unmarried than married young men reported that their first experience of pre-marital sex with an opposite-sex romantic partner was consensual (83% versus 77%). Conversely, more married than unmarried young men reported that the female partner had persuaded the male partner to engage in sexual relations (13% versus 4%).

Table 9.9: Characteristics of sexual experiences within pre-marital romantic relationships

Percentage of youth reporting pre-marital sexual experiences with an opposite-sex romantic partner by selected characteristics of their first and subsequent sexual encounters with the partner, Bihar, 2007

Characteristics (%)[1]	M 15–24	W 15–24	MM 15–29	MW 15–24	UM 15–24	UW 15–24
Anxiety associated with first sex						
Afraid of getting pregnant at first sex	42.9	59.0	43.3	(60.0)	44.6	(58.6)
Afraid of getting infection at first sex	18.3	35.4	21.1	(38.7)	12.0	(32.2)
Contraceptive use						
Practised contraception at first sex	23.3	6.1	16.5	(0.0)	25.0	(13.8)
Practised contraception in all sexual encounters[2]	18.8	6.1	12.4	(0.0)	18.5	(13.8)
Condom use						
Used a condom at first sex to:	17.3	4.9	11.2	(0.0)	20.7	(10.3)
Avoid pregnancy	17.3	3.7	11.2	(0.0)	20.7	(8.5)
Avoid infection	14.9	4.9	7.1	(0.0)	16.5	(10.3)
Used condoms in all sexual encounters[2]	15.7	3.7	9.2	(0.0)	18.5	(6.9)
Decision to use contraception at first sex taken by:						
Respondent	15.0	1.2	10.3	(0.0)	17.4	(1.8)
Partner	4.5	3.7	6.2	(0.0)	2.2	(8.8)
Jointly	3.8	1.2	0.0	(0.0)	5.4	(1.8)
Consensuality of first sex						
Mutual consent	78.4	51.2	76.5	(54.8)	82.6	(41.7)
Male partner forced	4.5	22.0	2.0	(29.0)	4.3	(15.0)
Female partner forced	3.0	0.0	2.0	(0.0)	4.3	(0.0)
Male partner persuaded	7.5	25.6	6.1	(16.1)	4.3	(40.0)
Female partner persuaded	6.7	1.2	13.3	(0.0)	4.3	(3.3)
Number reporting pre-marital sex with an opposite-sex romantic partner	**108**	**87**	**80**	**40**	**73**	**47**

Note: All Ns are unweighted. Column totals may not equal 100% due to missing cases or "don't know" responses. ( ) Based on 25–49 unweighted cases. [1]In-depth probing of sexual experiences was restricted to respondents' first or most recent romantic partner. Therefore, if a respondent reported his/her first sexual experience as occurring with a romantic partner other than the first or the most recent, then age, consensuality and other characteristics at first sex were unknown. Information was not available in 1 such case. [2]Data were missing for 15 young men who reported sexual experiences with a romantic partner other than the first or most recent partner.

9.4 Pre-marital sexual experiences within romantic and other relationships

Aside from the heterosexual romantic partnerships discussed in previous sections, the Youth Study also probed youth experiences of pre-marital sex with other partners, including casual partners and spouse before marriage, and in situations characterised by force and exchange of gifts or favours. In addition, in the case of male respondents, questions were asked about pre-marital sex with same-sex partners, sex workers and married women. In this and subsequent sections of this chapter, we present findings on the prevalence of pre-marital sexual experiences (irrespective of whether such experiences took place within romantic or other partnerships) among all youth in the sample.

9.4.1 Extent of pre-marital sexual experiences

Table 9.10 reports percentages of respondents reporting pre-marital sex in any of the situations described above. Findings confirm that pre-marital sex profiles of young men and women varied widely. For 7% of young men and 1% of young women, pre-marital sex occurred in a romantic relationship with a person of the opposite sex. In contrast, 0.5–0.6% of youth reported that they were forced to engage in sex, and 0.4% of young men reported that they had forced sex on a female partner. Sex in exchange for money or favours was reported by 0.1–0.2% or fewer youth. Casual sex was reported by 2.2% of young men and 0.1% of young women.

Young men were asked, in addition, about same-sex relations as well as relations with sex workers and married women (excluding their own wives, if married). Findings suggest that 0.4% of young men had experienced same-sex relations. Relations with sex workers and married women were reported by 0.9% and 3.4% of young men. Just 0.3–0.4% of married young men and women reported sex with their spouse before marriage (some of these included those who had sex with a romantic partner whom they later married). In this way, a total of 12% of young men and 2% of young women reported pre-marital sexual relations in the course of face-to-face interviews.

Several youth, particularly young men who had not admitted sexual experience in the face-to-face interview did so in the anonymous sealed envelope. Including these, in total, 14% of young men and 3% of young women had reported any pre-marital sexual experience. Although the Youth Study findings fall on the low side of ranges observed in a variety of small case studies (15–30% for males and fewer than 10% for females; Jejeebhoy and Sebastian, 2004), the possibility that youth opted not to disclose sexual experience in various situations cannot be discounted, particularly in the case of reporting by young women, and in the reporting of forced, same-sex or sex worker relations.

The percentages reporting pre-marital sexual experience were similar among married and unmarried young women (2% and 3%); however, married young men were more likely than unmarried young men to report pre-marital sexual experience (18% versus 11%) (see also Figure 9.3). Marital status differences in types of partners with whom sexual relations were experienced were generally negligible with one exception; married young men were considerably more likely than their unmarried counterparts to have experienced sexual relations with a married woman (6% and 1%, respectively). Rural-urban differences were modest (15% and 10% of rural and urban young men, respectively and 3% and 2%, respectively, of young women).

Table 9.11 presents percentages reporting pre-marital sexual experience by selected socio-demographic characteristics of youth. In view of the small numbers of respondents reporting such experience, findings are presented for all married and unmarried young men and women; findings for rural and urban respondents are not separately provided.

Findings suggest that percentages reporting pre-marital sexual experience did not differ much by most background characteristics. Even so, young men, particularly unmarried young men belonging to scheduled castes were more likely than others to report pre-marital sexual experience (21% versus 11–12%). Young men who had worked in the last year were twice as likely as non-working young men to have experienced pre-marital sex (16% versus 8%). This pattern was evident among unmarried young men, but not among married young men. In addition, an inverse association was observed between age and pre-marital sexual experiences among married young men. All other differentials were narrow.

Table 9.10: Overall pre-marital sexual experiences

Percentage of youth reporting pre-marital sexual experiences with any partner and via different reporting methods, according to residence, Bihar, 2007

Pre-marital sexual experiences and reporting methods (%)	M 15–24	W 15–24	MM 15–29	MW 15–24	UM 15–24	UW 15–24
Combined						
Reported pre-marital sex with:						
Opposite-sex romantic partner	6.7	1.4	8.1	1.2	6.2	1.8
Same-sex partner	0.4	NA	0.2	NA	0.6	NA
Someone who forced respondent to have sex	0.5	0.6	0.4	0.7	0.5	0.4
Girl whom respondent forced	0.4	NA	0.2	NA	0.5	NA
Someone in exchange for money/favour	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.3	0.1
Sex worker	0.9	NA	1.2	NA	0.9	NA
Married woman[1]	3.4	NA	6.0	NA	1.0	NA
Casual partner	2.2	0.1	2.4	0.2	2.1	0.0
Spouse before marriage	NA	NA	0.4	0.3	NA	NA
Reported any pre-marital sex via:						
Face-to-face interview	12.1	1.8	16.0	1.8	9.0	1.9
Anonymous format (sealed envelope)	11.8	2.4	14.2	2.2	10.6	2.8
Face-to-face interview or anonymous format (sealed envelope)	14.0	2.6	18.0	2.4	10.7	3.0
Number of respondents	**1,942**	**5,529**	**1,115**	**2,341**	**1,492**	**3,188**
Urban						
Reported pre-marital sex with:						
Opposite-sex romantic partner	3.9	1.3	4.3	2.1	3.7	0.8
Same-sex partner	0.4	NA	0.0	NA	0.4	NA
Someone who forced respondent to have sex	0.4	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.4	0.2
Girl whom respondent forced	0.7	NA	0.0	NA	0.8	NA
Someone in exchange for money/favour	0.4	0.2	1.1	0.0	0.4	0.2
Sex worker	1.4	NA	1.1	NA	1.2	NA
Married woman[1]	2.9	NA	5.4	NA	1.2	NA
Casual partner	1.1	0.2	1.1	0.0	0.8	0.0
Spouse before marriage	NA	NA	0.0	1.4	NA	NA
Reported any pre-marital sex via:						
Face-to-face interview	7.9	1.6	12.0	2.8	6.1	0.8
Anonymous format (sealed envelope)	9.0	1.9	12.0	2.8	7.8	1.4
Face-to-face interview or anonymous format (sealed envelope)	10.4	2.0	16.3	2.8	8.2	1.6
Number of respondents	**1,039**	**2,581**	**547**	**1,136**	**833**	**1,445**
Rural						
Reported pre-marital sex with:						
Opposite-sex romantic partner	7.1	1.4	8.4	1.1	6.7	2.0
Same-sex partner	0.4	NA	0.2	NA	0.6	NA
Someone who forced respondent to have sex	0.5	0.6	0.4	0.7	0.6	0.4
Girl whom respondent forced	0.3	NA	0.2	NA	0.4	NA
Someone in exchange for money/favour	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.2	0.0
Sex worker	0.8	NA	1.2	NA	0.7	NA
Married woman[1]	3.4	NA	6.1	NA	1.0	NA
Casual partner	2.4	0.1	2.5	0.2	2.2	0.0
Spouse before marriage	NA	NA	0.4	0.2	NA	NA
Reported any pre-marital sex via:						
Face-to-face interview	12.8	1.9	16.2	1.8	9.7	2.1
Anonymous format (sealed envelope)	12.2	2.4	14.4	2.1	11.1	3.0
Face-to-face interview or anonymous format (sealed envelope)	14.5	2.7	18.2	2.4	11.3	3.3
Number of respondents	**903**	**2,948**	**568**	**1,205**	**659**	**1,743**

Note: All Ns are unweighted. NA: Not applicable. [1]Sex with a married woman excludes sex with wife before marriage.

Figure 9.3: Percentage of youth reporting any pre-marital sexual experiences (in face-to-face interview or sealed envelope), according to residence, Bihar, 2007

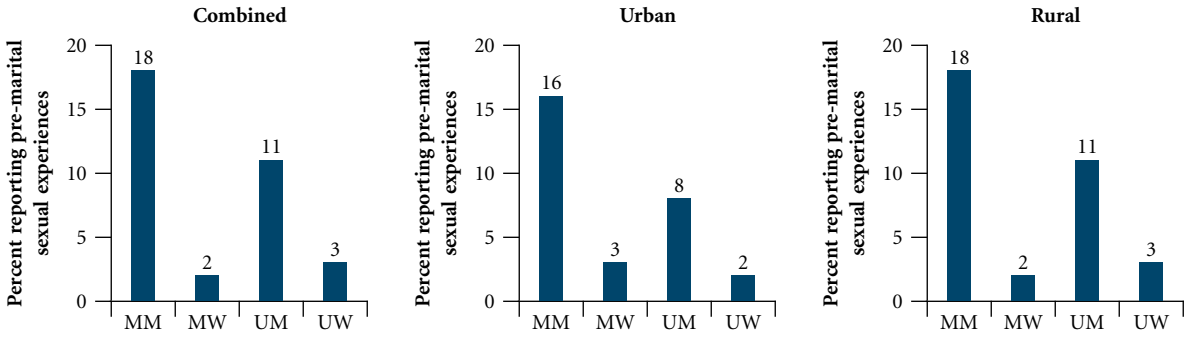


Table 9.11: Overall pre-marital sexual experiences by selected background characteristics

Percentage of youth reporting any pre-marital sexual experiences by selected background characteristics, Bihar, 2007

Background characteristics (%)	M 15–24	W 15–24	MM 15–29	MW 15–24	UM 15–24	UW 15–24
Age (years)						
15–19	12.5	2.9	44.2	2.7	9.8	3.2
20–24	16.4	2.2	18.1	2.2	13.9	1.5
25–29	NA	NA	14.6	NA	NA	NA
Religion						
Hindu	14.1	2.5	18.4	2.2	10.7	3.2
Muslim	13.2	3.2	15.6	4.1	11.1	2.2
Caste						
SC	20.8	3.2	19.7	3.6	14.5	2.1
OBC	12.2	2.3	16.0	1.8	10.0	3.3
General[1]	10.5	3.0	18.9	3.2	9.3	2.7
Educational level (years)						
None[2]	16.8	2.0	18.0	1.9	8.0	2.1
1–7	14.3	3.2	20.2	2.7	10.6	3.8
8–11	12.5	3.5	15.5	4.3	11.4	2.9
12 and above	14.2	2.8	18.5	3.3	10.5	3.1
Worked in last 12 months						
Yes	16.0	3.2	18.1	3.0	12.6	3.7
No	8.4	2.3	(21.9)	2.1	7.4	2.6
Wealth quintile						
First	13.0	1.7	16.5	1.3	10.8	3.3
Second	19.6	3.9	15.6	4.3	13.8	2.7
Third	14.2	2.3	21.0	2.1	10.1	2.9
Fourth	12.6	3.1	17.3	2.8	10.9	3.6
Fifth	13.0	2.1	19.0	1.7	10.0	2.6
Total	**14.0**	**2.6**	**18.0**	**2.4**	**10.7**	**3.0**

Note: ( ) Based on 25–49 unweighted cases. NA: Not applicable. OBC: Other backward caste. SC: Scheduled caste. ST: Scheduled tribe. [1]Includes all those not belonging to SC, ST or OBC. [2]Includes non-literate and literate with no formal schooling.

9.4.2 Age at initiation of pre-marital sex

Table 9.12 presents cumulative percentages of youth who experienced first pre-marital sex at selected ages (among all youth in the sample) calculated using life table techniques, with censoring taking place at the time of marriage for married youth and at the time of the survey for unmarried youth. For youth who reported pre-marital sex only through the anonymous sealed envelope method, age at first premarital sex was imputed conservatively, using age at marriage (for the married) and current age (for the unmarried) as age at initiation of pre-marital sex.

Several findings are notable. First, young men tended to initiate pre-marital sexual relations earlier than young women. Specifically, 7% of young men compared to 3% of young women had initiated first sex before age 18. Second, youth in rural areas were more likely to initiate pre-marital sexual relations earlier than their urban counterparts; for example, 6–15% of rural youth compared to 3–9% of urban youth had their sexual debut in adolescence. Third, findings indicate notable increases in initiation of pre-marital sexual activity as young people transitioned from early adolescence (before age 15) to late adolescence (before ages 18 and 20) to young adulthood (before ages 21 and 25). While just 1.5% of young men and 0.7% of young women initiated pre-marital sexual relations in early adolescence (before age 15), 14% of young men and 5% of young women experienced first pre-marital sex before they transitioned out of adolescence (before age 20), and 27% of young men and 12% of young women had initiated pre-marital sexual relations before they transitioned into adulthood (before age 25).

The age-specific increase in cumulative percentages of those who had initiated pre-marital sexual relations was steeper among rural than among urban youth. Among rural young men, for example, while just 1.7% had experienced first sex in early adolescence (before age 15), as many as 15% had experienced pre-marital sex before they transitioned out of adolescence (before age 20) and 29% by the time they transitioned out of the youth ages to adulthood (before age 25). The corresponding percentages among urban youth were 0.4%, 9% and 20%, respectively. Although levels of pre-marital sex were lower among young women, the same pattern held true. Among rural women, 0.8% had initiated sex before age 15 and this percentage increased to 6% and further to 18% before ages 20 and 25, respectively. Increases among young women in urban areas, in contrast, were relatively mild (from 0.3% before age 15 to 2.6% before age 20 and 3.3% before age 25).

Table 9.12: Age at initiation of pre-marital sex

Cumulative percentage of youth by age at first pre-marital sexual experience, according to residence, Bihar, 2007

Age at first pre-marital sex (%)[1]	M 15–24	W 15–24	M 15–24	W 15–24	M 15–24	W 15–24
	Combined		Urban		Rural	
First pre-marital sex occurred before age (years):						
15	1.5	0.7	0.4	0.3	1.7	0.8
18	7.2	3.1	4.7	1.5	7.6	3.4
20	14.1	5.3	8.8	2.6	15.1	6.0
21	16.6	5.9	10.2	2.9	17.8	6.7
25	27.3	11.9	19.6	3.3	28.9	18.1
Number of respondents	**1,942**	**5,529**	**1,039**	**2,581**	**903**	**2,948**

Note: All Ns are unweighted. [1]Calculated using life table techniques. Age at first pre-marital sex among those who reported pre-marital sex only through the anonymous sealed envelope method was imputed conservatively, using age at marriage (for the married) and current age (for the unmarried).

9.4.3 Pre-marital sexual risk behaviours

Table 9.13 presents findings relating to sexual risk behaviours of those reporting pre-marital sexual experiences, including multiple partner relations and inconsistent condom use. Findings confirm that where youth engaged in pre-marital sex, it was generally under unsafe conditions.

Sizeable proportions of sexually experienced youth had indeed engaged in sex with multiple partners before marriage; for example, one-fifth of young men reported two or more partners. While fewer young women reported that they had engaged in pre-marital sex, a relatively large proportion of these young women (28%) reported multiple pre-marital partners. Among young men, the unmarried were more likely than the married to report multiple partner relationships (29% versus 21%); in contrast, the unmarried and the married were about as likely to report multiple partner relationships among young women. Unmarried youth were further probed about the number of partners with whom they had engaged in sex over the 12 months preceding the interview. One in six and one in eight sexually experienced unmarried young men and women, respectively, reported multiple sexual partners in the last year.

The Youth Study questionnaire probed consistent condom use only with regard to sex with the first and/or most recent romantic partner, in exchange sex encounters, with sex workers and with married women. Information on condom use was not obtained for pre-marital sexual experiences with romantic partners other than the first or most recent, same-sex romantic partners, casual sex partners, spouse before marriage or among those who reported the experience of forced sex. Although few youth reported these latter relationships, we acknowledge that our consistent condom use indicator may not be comprehensive.

Table 9.13: Pre-marital sexual risk behaviours

Percentage of sexually experienced youth who had pre-marital sex by number of partners and condom use, Bihar, 2007

Sexual behaviours (%)	M 15–24	W 15–24	MM 15–29	MW 15–24	UM 15–24	UW 15–24
Total number of pre-marital sexual partners						
1	78.2	72.3	79.2	72.1	70.6	(70.5)
2 or more	21.8	27.7	20.8	27.9	29.4	(29.5)
Consistent condom use with pre-marital sexual partners[1]	6.3	2.0	4.5	0.0	9.6	(5.0)
Number reporting pre-marital sex in face-to-face interview	**206**	**99**	**159**	**50**	**113**	**49**
Number of sexual partners in last 12 months						
None	NA	NA	NA	NA	46.3	(30.0)
1	NA	NA	NA	NA	37.5	(58.3)
2 or more	NA	NA	NA	NA	16.2	(11.7)
Condom used at last pre-marital sex	NA	NA	NA	NA	20.0	(13.3)
Number of unmarried respondents reporting pre-marital sex in face-to-face interview	**NA**	**NA**	**NA**	**NA**	**113**	**49**

Note: All Ns are unweighted. NA: Not applicable. [1]Questions on consistent condom use were asked only with regard to sexual relationships with first and/or most recent romantic partner, exchange sex partner, sex worker or married woman and excluded experiences with romantic partners other than first or most recent romantic partner, same-sex romantic partner, casual partner, spouse before marriage and experiences of forced sex.

Findings suggest that among youth who reported pre-marital sex in the face-to-face interview, consistent condom use was extremely limited; only 6% of young men and 2% of young women reported that they had always used a condom. The unmarried were more likely than the married to report consistent condom use (10% versus 5% among young men and 5% versus 0% among young women). Condom use during the last pre-marital sexual encounter, assessed for unmarried respondents, suggests that only 20% of unmarried young men and 13% of unmarried young women reported condom use at last sex.

9.4.4 Non-consensual sexual experiences

The Youth Study questionnaire also probed the extent to which young people had experienced such non-consensual sexual experiences as verbal harassment, non-consensual sexual touch or forced sex. In addition, young men were asked if they had ever verbally harassed a girl or perpetrated non-consensual sexual touch or forced sex. Findings on non-consensual sexual experiences are presented in Table 9.14. For the married, these refer to the period before marriage. We acknowledge that forced sex is an extremely sensitive issue and hence, very likely to have been under-reported.

Verbal sexual harassment was experienced by substantial minorities of young women (23%) and few young men (3%). Marital status differences were modest among young men, but wide among young women; 28% of unmarried young women compared to 19% of married young women reported having experienced verbal sexual harassment. Rural-urban differences suggest, moreover, that young women in urban settings were almost twice as likely to have reported the experience of verbal harassment as their rural counterparts (38% in urban areas compared with 21% in rural areas). Rural-urban differences were muted among young men.

Non-consensual sexual touch was measured by questions that probed whether the respondent had ever been the victim of unwanted hugging or kissing in a sexual way, whether someone had touched their private parts without consent or had forced them to touch the perpetrator's private parts, and finally, whether someone had attempted to have sex with the respondent against her/his will using physical force or threats. As shown in Table 9.14, few respondents—3%—admitted the experience of unwanted touch measured in these ways. Surprisingly, gender differences were not observed. Differences by marital status and rural-urban residence were negligible.

Questions on forced sex were posed in two ways: with regard to the consensual nature of first sex with a romantic opposite- or same-sex partner, on the one hand, and forced sex by any non-romantic partner, on the other. Even measured in this way, forced sex was rarely reported, that is, by 0.5% of young men and 0.6% of young women.

Young men's reports of perpetration of these acts are presented in Table 9.14. One-quarter of young men admitted that they had ever harassed a girl verbally. Moreover, one in eight young men admitted touching or brushing past a girl without her consent. Perpetration of verbal harassment and unwanted touch was about equally reported by both married and unmarried young men, and both urban and rural young men. Finally, 0.4% of young men reported that they had forced sex on a girl.

Table 9.14: Pre-marital non-consensual sexual experiences

Percentage of youth reporting various pre-marital non-consensual sexual experiences, according to residence, Bihar, 2007

Non-consensual sexual experiences (%)	M 15–24	W 15–24	MM 15–29	MW 15–24	UM 15–24	UW 15–24
Combined						
Ever experienced						
Verbal harassment	3.3	22.6	2.1	19.0	3.7	28.4
Any non-consensual sexual touch[1]	2.7	3.4	2.2	2.9	2.9	4.1
Any forced sex	0.5	0.6	0.4	0.7	0.5	0.4
Ever perpetrated the following:						
Verbally harassed anyone[2]	24.0	NA	23.8	NA	23.5	NA
Touched or brushed past a girl[2]	12.4	NA	12.6	NA	11.6	NA
Forced sex on a girl	0.4	NA	0.2	NA	0.5	NA
Number of respondents	**1,942**	**5,529**	**1,115**	**2,341**	**1,492**	**3,188**
Urban						
Ever experienced						
Verbal harassment	1.8	38.0	1.1	30.8	1.6	43.2
Any non-consensual sexual touch[1]	2.5	5.3	2.2	3.5	2.5	6.7
Any forced sex	0.4	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.4	0.2
Ever perpetrated the following:						
Verbally harassed anyone[2]	24.4	NA	28.3	NA	23.4	NA
Touched or brushed past a girl[2]	12.2	NA	14.1	NA	11.5	NA
Forced sex on a girl	0.7	NA	0.0	NA	0.8	NA
Number of respondents	**1,039**	**2,581**	**547**	**1,136**	**833**	**1,445**
Rural						
Ever experienced						
Verbal harassment	3.6	20.6	2.2	18.2	4.1	25.7
Any non-consensual sexual touch[1]	2.8	3.1	2.2	2.9	3.0	3.7
Any forced sex	0.5	0.6	0.4	0.7	0.6	0.4
Ever perpetrated the following:						
Verbally harassed anyone[2]	24.0	NA	23.4	NA	23.5	NA
Touched or brushed past a girl[2]	12.4	NA	12.5	NA	11.6	NA
Forced sex on a girl	0.3	NA	0.2	NA	0.4	NA
Number of respondents	**903**	**2,948**	**568**	**1,205**	**659**	**1,743**

Note: All Ns are unweighted. NA: Not applicable. [1]Includes hugging in a sexual way, kissing in sexual way, touching of private parts and attempted forced sex. [2]It is possible that married young men may have reported the occurrence of these events post-marriage since age at occurrence was not probed.

9.5 Triangulation of data on pre-marital sexual experiences among young people

Acknowledging that young people may have been reluctant to disclose behaviours perceived as socially unacceptable such as pre-marital sex, the Youth Study included three approaches to elicit data on sexual behaviours. These were face-to-face interviews, anonymous reporting of respondents' own experiences via the sealed envelope and anonymous third-party reporting of peer experiences. Anonymous third-party reporting of peer experiences is a useful methodology by which to gauge sensitive behaviours that individuals are reluctant to express about themselves; findings are intended to shed light on behaviours of social networks and not necessarily the individual himself or herself (Rossier 2003).

We note that in anonymous third-party reporting, respondents may have reported as peers individuals whose ages fell outside our sample ages (15–24 and, in the case of married males, 15–29); therefore, in estimating pre-marital romantic and sexual experiences of young people using this reporting method, these were excluded. In addition, we recognise that in anonymous third-party reporting, friends reported by one respondent may also be reported by others. In estimating pre-marital romantic and sexual experiences of young people using this reporting method, our analysis sought to minimise chances that the experience of an individual belonging to more than one peer network would be included multiple times. Specifically, we inversely weighted the total sample of friends by the number of friends reported by each respondent. As a result, each respondent's network was given equal weight irrespective of its size.

Findings presented in Table 9.15 compare the levels of pre-marital romantic and sexual experiences obtained through these different approaches. Specifically, three indicators are presented: (a) percent reporting a pre-marital romantic relationship, (b) percent reporting the experience of pre-marital sex with a romantic opposite-sex partner, and (c) percent reporting any pre-marital sexual experience. For indicators a–b, we compare two sets of estimates derived from the face-to-face interview: respondents' reports of their own experiences as well as third-party reporting of the experiences of their peers. For indicator c, we compare three sets of estimates: any pre-marital sex as reported in the face-to-face format; any pre-marital sex among peers as assessed through anonymous third-party reporting; and any pre-marital sex as reported in the face-to-face interview supplemented by reports of pre-marital sexual experience recorded in the anonymous format, using the sealed envelope.

Comparisons indicate differences in reporting level by sex of the respondent and type of behaviour under consideration. In terms of pre-marital romantic relationships, anonymous third-party reporting yielded higher rates than did face-to-face reporting for young women, but not for young men (10% and 5%, respectively, among young women; 18% and 17%, respectively, among young men). When analysed separately for the married and the unmarried, findings suggest that while anonymous third-party reporting provided higher estimates for married and unmarried young women and unmarried young men, the reverse was true for married young men, the group with perhaps the least to lose by admitting to a pre-marital romantic partnership.

As far as reporting of experience of pre-marital sex with a romantic partner was concerned, differences were narrower. Even so, young women were somewhat more likely to report sexual relations with a romantic partner among peers in the anonymous third-party reporting method than in the face-to-face interview. While the estimates derived from both methods were similar among the unmarried, these differed among the married. While the anonymous third-party reporting method provided higher estimates of sexual experiences with a romantic partner among peers than did the face-to-face interview for married young women, the reverse was true for married young men.

Table 9.15: Levels of pre-marital romantic and sexual experiences by different reporting methods

Percentage of youth reporting pre-marital romantic relationships and percentage reporting sexual experiences within pre-marital romantic and other relationships by reporting method, according to residence, Bihar, 2007

Indicators (%)	M 15–24	W 15–24	MM 15–29	MW 15–24	UM 15–24	UW 15–24
Combined						
Reported a pre-marital opposite-sex romantic partner via:						
Face-to-face interview	17.0	4.9	16.8	3.6	16.0	7.1
Anonymous third-party reporting	17.7	9.5	13.7	8.9	18.7	10.4
Reported pre-marital sex with a romantic opposite-sex partner via:						
Face-to-face interview	6.7	1.4	8.1	1.2	6.2	1.8
Anonymous third-party reporting	6.5	3.1	5.3	3.7	6.6	2.2
Reported any pre-marital sexual experience via:						
Face-to-face interview	12.1	1.8	16.0	1.8	9.0	1.9
Anonymous third-party reporting	8.3	3.5	7.9	4.1	8.2	2.3
Face-to-face interview or anonymous reporting through sealed envelope	14.0	2.6	18.0	2.4	10.7	3.0
Number of respondents	**1,942**	**5,529**	**1,115**	**2,341**	**1,492**	**3,188**
Urban						
Reported a pre-marital opposite-sex romantic partner via:						
Face-to-face interview	21.1	9.3	19.6	9.2	20.5	9.5
Anonymous third-party reporting	19.8	13.3	22.2	12.6	19.4	14.0
Reported pre-marital sex with a romantic opposite-sex partner via:						
Face-to-face interview	3.9	1.3	4.3	2.1	3.7	0.8
Anonymous third-party reporting	5.0	2.5	7.4	3.4	4.6	1.8
Reported any pre-marital sexual experience via:						
Face-to-face interview	7.9	1.6	12.0	2.8	6.1	0.8
Anonymous third-party reporting	7.0	2.7	10.0	4.2	6.5	1.8
Face-to-face interview or anonymous reporting through sealed envelope	10.4	2.0	16.3	2.8	8.2	1.6
Number of respondents	**1,039**	**2,581**	**547**	**1,136**	**833**	**1,445**
Rural						
Reported a pre-marital opposite-sex romantic partner via:						
Face-to-face interview	16.3	4.4	16.5	3.3	15.1	6.7
Anonymous third-party reporting	17.3	9.0	13.0	8.7	18.5	9.7
Reported pre-marital sex with a romantic opposite-sex partner via:						
Face-to-face interview	7.1	1.4	8.4	1.1	6.7	2.0
Anonymous third-party reporting	6.8	3.2	5.1	3.7	7.0	2.2
Reported any pre-marital sexual experience via:						
Face-to-face interview	12.8	1.9	16.2	1.8	9.7	2.1
Anonymous third-party reporting	8.6	3.6	7.7	4.1	8.5	2.5
Face-to-face interview or anonymous reporting through sealed envelope	14.5	2.7	18.2	2.4	11.3	3.3
Number of respondents	**903**	**2,948**	**568**	**1,205**	**659**	**1,743**

Note: All Ns are unweighted. Detailed information on friends' romantic and sexual experiences was collected for up to five of the respondent's closest same-sex friends.

As far as reporting of any pre-marital sexual experience was concerned, patterns differed across young men and women. While anonymous third-party reporting of peer behaviours yielded rates lower than those self-reported in response to questions posed face-to-face for young men, the reverse was true for young women. As earlier, the estimates derived from both methods were similar among the unmarried; however, while the anonymous third-party reporting method provided higher estimates of pre-marital sexual experiences than did the face-to-face interview for married young women, the reverse was true for married young men. A comparison of any pre-marital sexual experience reported in face-to-face interviews and via the anonymous sealed envelope format suggests that some youth who had not admitted sexual experience in the face-to-face interview did so in the anonymous format: 2% of young men and less than 1% of young women. Indeed, 13% of young men and 27% of young women who reported sexual experience did so only in this more anonymous format (not shown in tabular form). Finally, it appears that self-reports of sexual experience, supplemented by self-reported experience in an anonymous format, provide consistently higher estimates of pre-marital sex among young men than does anonymous third-party reporting of pre-marital sexual experience among peers: for example, while 8% of young men reported pre-marital sex through anonymous third-party reporting, 14% acknowledged the experience through direct reporting supplemented by anonymous reporting through the sealed envelope. Among young women, differences were negligible, but anonymous third-party reporting provided slightly higher estimates than self-reports (3.5% and 2.6%, respectively). The patterns remained more or less similar in both rural and urban areas.

9.6 Summary

Findings confirm that despite strict norms prohibiting pre-marital opposite-sex mixing, opportunities do exist for the formation of pre-marital romantic relations. Indeed, significant minorities of young men and women have received or made a "proposal" for a romantic relationship (20% of young men and 12% of young women), and noteworthy, if smaller, percentages reported that they had been involved in a romantic partnership (17% and 5% of young men and women, respectively). Patterns of pre-marital romantic partnerships suggest that where partnerships occurred, they were initiated at an early age and were usually hidden from parents but not from peers. Notable disparities in expectations of a longer-term commitment emerged that show that young women were considerably more likely than young men to have expected a romantic relationship to lead to marriage. The experiences of the married suggest, moreover, a disconnect between intentions and reality: among those who reported the intention to marry their pre-marital partner, 38% of young women and 8% of young men did so.

There is a clear progression in reported physical intimacy and sexual experience with romantic partners: while 87% of young men had held hands with a romantic partner, two-fifths had engaged in sexual relations; and among young women, while 70% had held hands with a romantic partner, 30% had engaged in sexual relations with this partner. Partner communication and negotiation regarding safe sex were rare, and the vast majority had engaged in unprotected sex. Over one in five young women who had engaged in sexual relations with a romantic partner reported that their opposite-sex romantic partner had forced them to engage in sex the first time.

In total, 14% of young men and 3% of young women reported the experience of pre-marital sex within romantic and/or other partnerships. In general, first pre-marital sex took place earlier among young men than young women, and among rural than urban youth. Moreover, initiation into pre-marital sexual activity increased as young people transitioned from early to late adolescence and further as they transitioned into young adulthood.

While sex with a romantic partner characterised pre-marital experiences for many of the sexually experienced young men and women, findings suggest that small proportions of young men also engaged in sex in other contexts. Other partners reported by them included, mainly, sex workers, married women and casual partners. Many of the pre-marital sexual experiences reported by youth were risky, for example, one-fifth of young men and one-quarter of young women reporting pre-marital sex had engaged in sex with more than one partner. Moreover, consistent condom use was extremely limited—only 6% of young men and 2% of young women reported condom use in all pre-marital encounters reported.

We acknowledge that youth, especially young women, may not report sexual experience in a survey situation. Hence, the Youth Study supplemented a series of direct questions with an opportunity to report sexual experience in an anonymous format. In total, direct questioning supplemented by self-reporting in an anonymous format provided considerably higher estimates of sexual experience among young men than did face-to-face questioning alone or anonymous third-party reporting of peer behaviours among young men. However among young women, anonymous third-party reporting provided slightly higher estimates than self-reports.

Chapter 10

Transitions to marriage and early married life

As is well known, the transition to marriage occurs early in India, both for young men and young women. The recent NFHS (IIPS and Macro International, 2007a) shows, for example, that in India, 47% of young women aged 20–24 had married before the age of 18, the minimum legal age at marriage for females; 32% of young men aged 25–29 had, likewise, married before they reached the age of 21, the legal minimum age at marriage for males. While marriage occurs early, marriage-related planning occurs even earlier, often as soon as a girl reaches menarche and, in many cases, even before she does so and without her participation. Moreover, while the consummation of marriage generally occurs following menarche, early married life tends to be isolated and frightening for many adolescent girls and young women. This chapter captures some of these experiences, including young people's preferences about the timing and type of marriage, marriage preparation and planning, and young people's participation in these processes, as well as their experiences in early married life and the fertility and contraceptive behaviours of young couples.

10.1 Young people's preferences regarding timing and type of marriage

The Youth Study sought to assess young people's preferences about the age at which to marry and, among the unmarried, their preferences for love or arranged marriages. While it is possible that youth who were married in adolescence might have reported the age at which they married as the preferred age, findings, presented in Table 10.1, indicate a gender divide in young people's preferences regarding timing of marriage. Most young women indicated a preference to marry in adolescence; almost one-quarter preferred to marry before 18 years and as many as three-fifths preferred to marry before age 20, that is, while still adolescent. In contrast, just 6% of young men preferred to marry before age 20 and over two-fifths of young men (44%) preferred to marry at age 25 or later, a preference articulated by just 6% of young women.

Differentials by marital status and rural-urban residence of respondents were notable. Married youth were more likely than the unmarried to report that they preferred to marry before age 20 (71% versus 45% among young women and 12% and 2% among young men). Conversely, more unmarried than married youth preferred to marry at age 25 or later (10% versus 4% among young women, and 51% versus 32% among young men, respectively). A larger proportion of rural than urban young women expressed a preference to marry before age 20; for example, 65% of women in rural areas compared to 34% in urban areas. A smaller proportion of rural youth expressed a preference to marry late; for example, 40% of rural young men compared to 64% of urban young men preferred to marry at age 25 or later, as did 5% and 15%, respectively, of young women.

Findings also show that almost all unmarried youth preferred to have an arranged rather than love marriage. For example, just 3–4% of young men and women reported that they would prefer a love marriage. Rural-urban differences were muted, nevertheless they suggest that urban youth were more likely than their rural counterparts to prefer a love marriage.

Table 10.1: Preferences regarding timing and type of marriage

Percentage of youth reporting preferences regarding timing of marriage and percentage preferring a love marriage, according to residence, Bihar, 2007

Indicators (%)	M 15–24	W 15–24	MM 15–29	MW 15–24	UM 15–24	UW 15–24
Combined						
Preferred to marry at age:						
17 or below	1.4	23.8	3.0	32.0	0.5	9.4
18	2.9	29.2	6.5	30.9	0.5	26.8
19	1.8	8.2	2.6	7.7	1.0	9.1
20	10.7	17.7	16.8	15.9	8.6	21.3
21	9.8	5.5	9.6	4.1	9.3	8.0
22	15.0	5.3	14.8	3.5	14.8	8.1
23	6.1	1.5	6.2	0.6	5.8	3.1
24	6.6	1.6	6.3	0.9	6.9	2.6
25 or above	43.8	6.0	31.9	3.5	50.5	10.0
Preferred not to marry	1.9	1.2	2.4	1.0	2.1	1.6
Preferred a love marriage[1]	NA	NA	NA	NA	3.2	3.8
Number of respondents	**1,942**	**5,529**	**1,115**	**2,341**	**1,492**	**3,188**
Urban						
Preferred to marry at age:						
17 or below	0.4	7.1	1.1	14.1	0.0	2.2
18	1.4	19.7	5.4	29.6	0.4	12.6
19	0.7	7.2	1.1	9.2	0.4	5.9
20	5.7	18.6	13.0	21.1	4.1	16.8
21	5.0	9.6	7.6	7.7	4.1	10.7
22	10.3	11.0	12.0	7.7	10.2	13.4
23	4.6	4.6	5.4	2.1	4.1	6.1
24	6.0	5.3	7.6	2.1	6.1	7.7
25 or above	64.1	15.4	44.6	4.9	69.0	22.9
Preferred not to marry	1.8	1.6	2.2	1.4	1.6	1.8
Preferred a love marriage[1]	NA	NA	NA	NA	6.1	6.7
Number of respondents	**1,039**	**2,581**	**547**	**1,136**	**833**	**1,445**
Rural						
Preferred to marry at age:						
17 or below	1.6	26.0	3.1	33.1	0.6	10.8
18	3.1	30.4	6.6	30.9	0.6	29.4
19	2.0	8.3	2.7	7.6	1.1	9.7
20	11.6	17.6	17.1	15.5	9.5	22.1
21	10.6	5.0	9.8	3.9	10.3	7.5
22	15.8	4.5	15.1	3.3	15.8	7.1
23	6.3	1.1	6.3	0.5	6.1	2.5
24	6.7	1.0	6.2	0.8	7.1	1.7
25 or above	40.4	4.8	30.7	3.4	46.8	7.7
Preferred not to marry	2.0	1.2	2.4	1.0	2.1	1.6
Preferred a love marriage[1]	NA	NA	NA	NA	2.6	3.3
Number of respondents	**903**	**2,948**	**568**	**1,205**	**659**	**1,743**

Note: All Ns are unweighted. NA: Not applicable. [1]Excludes those who reported a preference not to marry.

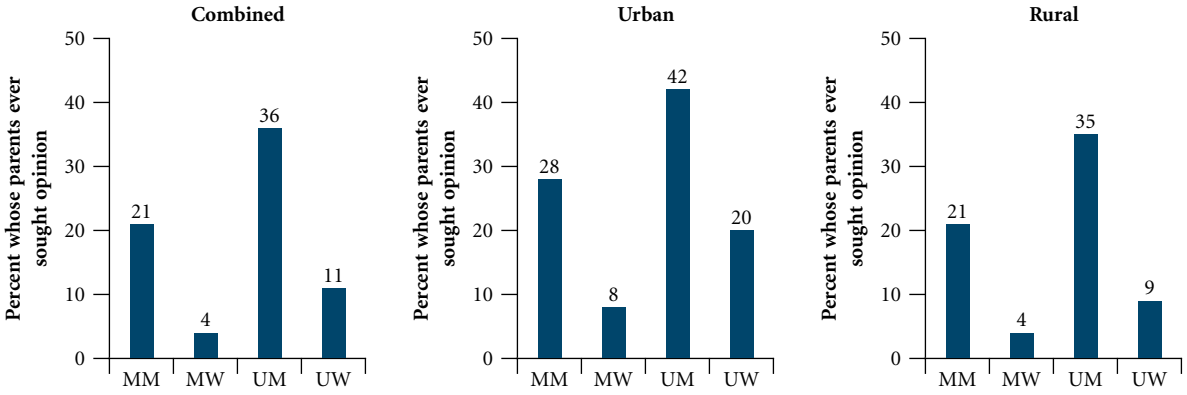
10.2 Marriage planning and extent of youth involvement

Several questions were put to both married and unmarried youth to understand the process of marriage planning as well as their involvement in it. While questions on marriage planning were similar for the married and the unmarried, some questions were unique to one or the other group. For example, the Youth Study asked unmarried respondents whether their parents or family members had begun discussing plans for their marriage; and asked all married youth, and those unmarried youth for whom discussion had been initiated, about their age at that time and whether their parents sought their opinion about the age at which they wished to marry.

Findings presented in Table 10.2 indicate that marriage related discussions were initiated at young ages not only for young women but also for considerable proportions of young men. At the same time, findings reiterate vast gender differences in the age of young people when discussions were initiated regarding the planning of their marriages. Among those whose parents had ever initiated marriage-related discussion (almost all married youth and 37% and 76% of unmarried young men and women, respectively), findings indicate that four-fifths of all young women (82%) and one-third of young men (35%) reported that marriage-related discussion was initiated before age 18. Indeed, for 13% of young men and 61% of young women, such discussions were initiated as early as 15 years or below and for as many as 28% of young women, even as early as age 13. Marital status differences were muted for young men, but discussion was initiated earlier for currently married young women compared to the unmarried. For example, for 65% of married young women, compared to 37% of the unmarried, discussions were initiated at age 15 or earlier. Discussion on marriage was initiated earlier for rural respondents than urban; here too, wide differences were apparent between young women and young men.

Among those whose parents had initiated marriage-related discussion, young people were rarely consulted on the timing of marriage; even so, young men were more likely than young women to be consulted on such issues (28% versus 5%). Differences by marital status and rural-urban residence were observed (see Figure 10.1). For example, irrespective of the sex of respondents, a much smaller proportion of married than unmarried youth were consulted about when they wished to marry (21% and 36%, respectively, of married and unmarried young men; and 4% and 11% of young women, respectively), a finding that may be attributable to the more traditional characteristics of families of young people who were married earlier. Rural-urban differences suggest that a somewhat larger proportion of urban youth compared to rural youth reported that their opinions were sought (34% versus 27% among young men and 12% versus 4% among young women).

Figure 10.1: Percentage of youth reporting that their parents had ever sought their opinion on timing of marriage, according to residence, Bihar, 2007



Note: Includes respondents whose parents had initiated marriage-related discussion.

Table 10.2: Initiation of discussion on marriage and extent of youth involvement

Percentage of youth by age at initiation of marriage-related discussion, percentage whose opinion had been sought on timing of marriage and percentage who would find it difficult to tell parents if they did not like the match chosen, according to residence, Bihar, 2007

Marriage discussion (%)	M 15–24	W 15–24	MM 15–29	MW 15–24	UM 15–24	UW 15–24
Combined						
Parents ever initiated discussion on marriage	37.1	76.2	97.7	99.4	15.8	33.0
Number of respondents	**1,942**	**5,529**	**1,115**	**2,341**	**1,492**	**3,188**
Discussion on marriage initiated at age (years)						
13 or below	1.6	28.2	2.4	32.9	0.9	2.9
14–15	11.2	32.6	8.5	32.4	11.5	34.3
16–17	21.7	21.1	15.4	18.9	20.9	33.0
18 or above	57.8	11.6	62.8	8.1	66.0	28.6
Don't know	7.7	6.6	10.7	7.6	0.9	1.1
Parents ever sought respondent's opinion about when to get married	27.9	5.0	21.1	3.8	36.0	11.0
Number whose parents had initiated discussion on marriage	**670**	**3,380**	**1,092**	**2,317**	**235**	**1,063**
Would find/have found it difficult to tell parents if respondent did not like the match chosen	NA	75.3	NA	79.8	40.3	68.2
Number of respondents	**1,942**	**5,529**	**1,115**	**2,341**	**1,492**	**3,188**
Urban						
Parents ever initiated discussion on marriage	26.4	60.8	97.8	98.6	15.9	33.8
Number of respondents	**1,039**	**2,581**	**547**	**1,136**	**833**	**1,445**
Discussion on marriage initiated at age (years)						
13 or below	0.0	12.6	0.0	18.0	0.0	1.8
14–15	6.8	24.5	6.7	26.6	5.3	19.9
16–17	16.2	26.8	11.1	27.3	18.4	25.3
18 or above	71.6	33.5	73.3	25.2	76.3	51.8
Don't know	5.4	2.6	8.9	2.9	0.0	1.2
Parents ever sought respondent's opinion about when to get married	34.2	11.9	27.8	7.9	42.1	19.8
Number whose parents had initiated discussion on marriage	**330**	**1,609**	**537**	**1,118**	**130**	**491**
Would find/have found it difficult to tell parents if respondent did not like the match chosen	NA	55.1	NA	69.7	33.6	44.5
Number of respondents	**1,039**	**2,581**	**547**	**1,136**	**833**	**1,445**
Rural						
Parents ever initiated discussion on marriage	38.9	78.2	97.7	99.5	15.8	32.8
Number of respondents	**903**	**2,948**	**568**	**1,205**	**659**	**1,743**
Discussion on marriage initiated at age (years)						
13 or below	1.7	29.8	2.5	33.9	1.0	3.2
14–15	11.8	33.4	8.7	32.8	12.7	36.9
16–17	22.2	20.5	15.8	18.4	21.3	34.5
18 or above	56.3	9.3	61.8	7.0	64.0	24.3
Don't know	8.1	7.0	10.9	7.9	1.0	1.1
Parents ever sought respondent's opinion about when to get married	27.2	4.3	20.5	3.6	34.5	9.4
Number whose parents had initiated discussion on marriage	**340**	**1,771**	**555**	**1,199**	**105**	**572**
Would find/have found it difficult to tell parents if respondent did not like the match chosen	NA	77.9	NA	80.4	41.6	72.6
Number of respondents	**903**	**2,948**	**568**	**1,205**	**659**	**1,743**

Note: All Ns are unweighted. Column totals may not equal 100% due to missing cases. NA: Not applicable.

The Youth Study also sought to assess the extent to which youth (other than married young men) perceived they could express or, among the married, could have expressed to their parents their preference not to marry the prospective spouse selected for them. Large proportions of youth perceived that it would be, or was difficult to oppose their parents if they did not approve of the match chosen for them. Although young women were more likely than unmarried young men to report difficulty, considerable percentages of unmarried young men also reported so (75% of young women and 40% of unmarried young men). Marital status differences suggest that unmarried young women were less likely than the married to report difficulty in opposing their parents (68% and 80%, respectively). This difference may reflect the tendency for the married to report actual experiences and for many unmarried whose families had not yet initiated discussion to report perceptions. At the same time, it may reflect the fact that women who were married at younger ages may have come from more traditional backgrounds or, conversely, suggest a trend towards greater self-determination among the unmarried. Finally, and perhaps for reasons pertaining to the traditional nature of family life in rural areas, rural youth were more likely than their urban counterparts to report difficulty in confronting their parents on marriage-related issues (42% compared to 34% of unmarried young men; 78% compared to 55% of young women). In short, these findings confirm that large proportions of youth did not expect to play a role in decision-making with regard to their own marriage.

10.3 Age at marriage and cohabitation

Youth Study findings underscore the early age at marriage among young women in Bihar (Table 10.3). Of those aged 20–24, as many as 46% of young women were married before age 15, 77% before age 18 and 87% before age 20. In rural areas, as many as 82% and 91% of women aged 20–24 years were married before age 18 and 20, respectively; the corresponding percentages in urban areas were 45% and 59%. Findings from the NFHS-3, however, indicate that as many as 69% of 20–24 year-old women in Bihar were married before age 18 (IIPS and Macro International, 2008) Findings, moreover, indicate that even though there were indications of a decline in very early marriage (before age 15) among young women, sizeable numbers continued to marry before age 15: 46% of those aged 20–24 were married before age 15 compared to 25% of those aged 15–19.

Even though early marriage was less prevalent among young men, one in eight (13%) young men aged 20–24 years were married before age 18 and almost one in three (31%) before age 20 compared to 21% and 33%, respectively, as reported in NFHS-3 (IIPS and Macro International, 2008). In rural areas, 15% and 34% of men aged 20–24 years were married before age 18 and 20, respectively.

The overwhelming majority of youth (99% young men and women) had been married just once (not shown in tabular form). The mean age at marriage among those who were married was 19.6 years among young men and 14.7 years among young women. As expected, rural youth married earlier than urban youth; the mean age at marriage among rural youth was one-and-a-half years earlier than that of urban youth (19.5 years versus 20.9 years for young men and 14.6 years versus 16.2 years for young women). Mean age at cohabitation was one year later than mean age at marriage, suggesting that the practice of *gauna* was relatively common in Bihar.

10.4 Marriage preparedness

Several questions were put to both married and unmarried youth who were engaged to be married to understand their preparedness for marriage. Questions ranged from whether the proposed spouse was chosen by the young person or by his/her parents; whether the young person's approval of the prospective spouse was sought, if chosen by parents; and how much contact the young person and the prospective spouse had prior

Table 10.3: Age at marriage and cohabitation

Percentage of youth aged 15–24 who were married before selected ages, percentage never married and mean age at marriage and cohabitation among those married, according to current age and residence, Bihar, 2007

Current age (years) (%)	Percentage first married before age (years):			Percentage never married	Among those married:		Number of respondents
	15	18	20		Mean age at marriage (years)	Mean age at cohabitation (years)	
Combined							
Men							
15–19	1.7	NA	NA	92.2	16.0	(17.1)	1,144
20–24	1.1	13.3	30.7	43.1	19.1	19.9	798
15–24	1.5	NA	NA	73.6	19.6[1]	20.6[1]	1,942
Women							
15–19	24.8	NA	NA	53.4	14.4	15.3	3,615
20–24	46.0	77.0	87.3	7.9	14.9	15.9	1,914
15–24	33.4	NA	NA	35.0	14.7	15.7	5,529
Urban							
Men							
15–19	0.6	NA	NA	98.2	*	*	566
20–24	0.9	6.0	13.8	71.6	19.5	20.1	473
15–24	0.7	NA	NA	87.1	20.9[1]	21.6[1]	1,039
Women							
15–19	7.2	NA	NA	79.9	15.2	15.8	1,447
20–24	17.2	45.3	59.1	29.2	16.6	17.2	1,134
15–24	11.5	NA	NA	58.1	16.2	16.9	2,581
Rural							
Men							
15–19	1.9	NA	NA	91.3	(16.0)	(17.1)	578
20–24	1.1	14.6	33.9	37.8	19.1	19.9	325
15–24	1.6	NA	NA	71.3	19.5[1]	20.5[1]	903
Women							
15–19	27.0	NA	NA	50.1	14.4	15.3	2,168
20–24	50.1	81.5	91.2	5.0	14.7	15.8	780
15–24	36.2	NA	NA	32.0	14.6	15.6	2,948

*Note: All Ns are unweighted. ( ) Based on 25–49 unweighted cases. *Mean not shown, based on fewer than 25 unweighted cases. NA: Not applicable due to censoring. [1]Includes married men aged 25–29 years.*

to marriage. As only 1% and 4% of unmarried young men and women, respectively, reported that they were engaged to be married (not shown in tabular form), we restrict our discussion to the currently married.

Table 10.4 describes marriage-related preparedness among the married. Almost all youth (99%), irrespective of sex and place of residence, had married a partner chosen by their parents. While 88% of young men reported that their parents sought their approval while determining their marriage partners, only 56% of young women so reported. As many as one in ten young men and over two in five young women reported that their parents had not sought their approval. Just 1% of youth—3–4% in urban areas and 1% in rural

areas—reported having chosen their marriage partner on their own. Also indicative of lack of preparedness was the short gap between the point at which marriage arrangements were fixed and the date of the actual marriage: on average two months; about three in four respondents reporting the occurrence of their marriage within three months of the completion of marriage negotiations, irrespective of sex of the respondent (not shown in tabular form).

Table 10.4: Marriage preparedness

Percent distribution of married youth by type of marriage and selected indicators of their preparedness for marriage, according to residence, Bihar, 2007

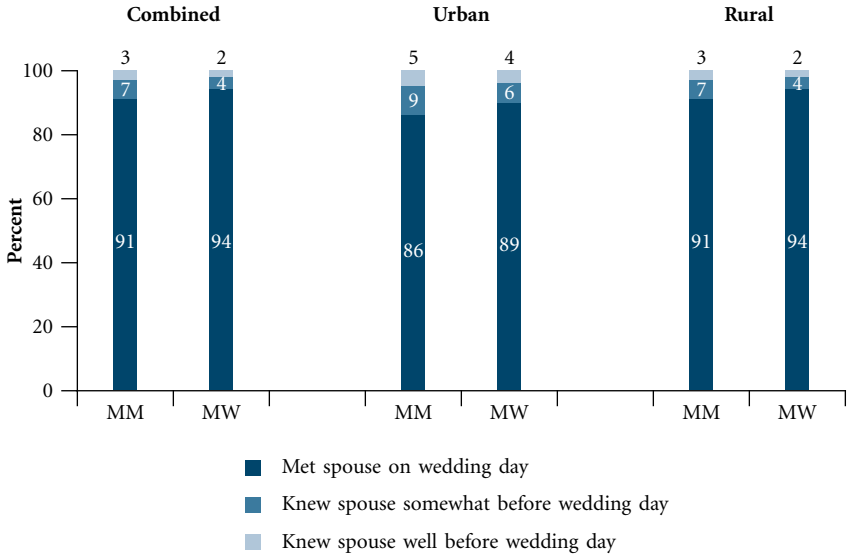
Marriage indicators (%)	MM 15–29	MW 15–24	MM 15–29	MW 15–24	MM 15–29	MW 15–24
	Combined		Urban		Rural	
Type of marriage						
Marriage fixed by respondent himself/herself (love marriage)	1.0	1.1	3.3	3.5	0.8	0.9
Marriage arranged by parents, with respondent's approval of choice of spouse	88.4	55.8	89.1	57.7	88.5	55.7
Marriage fixed by parents without respondent's approval	10.6	43.1	7.6	38.7	10.8	43.4
Ever had a chance to meet/talk with fiancé/fiancée alone	7.1	3.5	12.0	7.8	6.7	3.2
Acquaintance with spouse before marrige						
Met on wedding day	90.6	94.0	85.9	89.4	91.0	94.3
Knew somewhat before wedding day	6.6	3.9	8.7	6.4	6.5	3.7
Knew well before wedding day	2.8	2.1	5.4	4.3	2.5	1.9
Feelings about getting married						
Excited/looked forward to it	48.7	9.0	52.2	12.7	48.3	8.7
Nothing special	38.0	17.3	39.1	20.4	37.9	17.1
Very scared	5.7	55.4	3.3	45.1	6.0	56.0
Anxious	5.4	16.8	4.3	19.0	5.5	16.6
Unhappy	2.1	1.6	1.1	2.8	2.2	1.5
Number of respondents	**1,115**	**2,341**	**547**	**1,136**	**568**	**1,205**
Did not know what to expect of married life	63.3	80.8	54.5	79.0	64.2	81.0
Agree that youth do not get accurate information about married life before marriage	65.3	84.8	59.6	84.1	65.8	84.9
Number who had begun cohabiting	**1,072**	**2,236**	**525**	**1,102**	**547**	**1,134**

Note: All Ns are unweighted. Column totals may not equal 100% due to missing cases or "don't know" responses.

Reported pre-marital acquaintance was extremely limited, and highlights that even those who reported that they had approved their parents' choice of spouse had rarely had an opportunity to meet the prospective spouse prior to marriage. Indeed, just 4–7% of youth reported that they had ever had a chance to meet and interact with their spouse-to-be alone prior to marriage. While gender differences were negligible, urban youth were somewhat more likely than their rural counterparts to report so (8–12% versus 3–8%). Over 90% of married youth reported that they met their spouses for the first time on the wedding day. Just 4–7% youth reported that they knew their spouses only somewhat and 2–3% reported that they knew their spouses well

prior to marriage (see Figure 10.2). Rural-urban differences indicate that urban youth were somewhat more likely than their rural counterparts to report pre-marital acquaintance (11–14% versus 6–9%). In short, findings underscore the extent to which youth were excluded from marriage-related decision-making and were married to relative strangers.

Figure 10.2: Percent distribution of married youth by degree of acquaintance with future spouse before marriage, according to residence, Bihar, 2007



Note: Percentages may not equal 100.0 because of rounding.

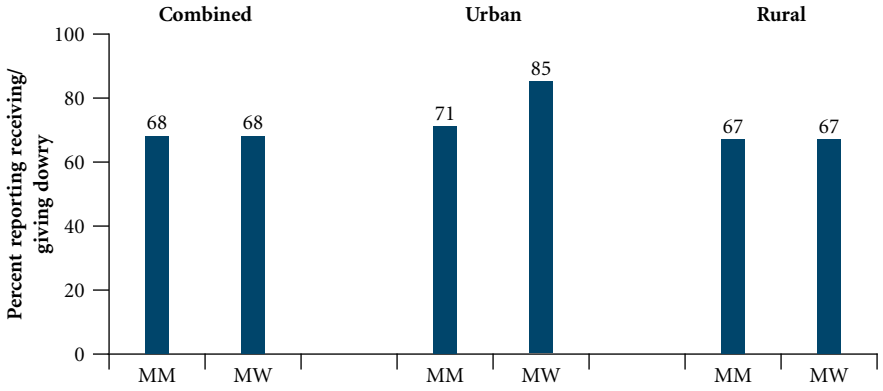
Compounding this lack of pre-marital acquaintance, large proportions of youth—63% of young men and 81% of young women—who had begun cohabiting with their spouses reported that they were unaware at the time of their marriage of what to expect of married life. Rural-urban differences were negligible among young women, but young men in urban areas (55%) were considerably more likely than those in rural areas (64%) to have reported as such. Two-thirds (65%) of young men and over four-fifths (85%) of young women reported that young people in general were poorly informed about married life prior to marriage, highlighting the need for family life or sex education and pre-marital counselling for young people. Somewhat more rural than urban young men so reported (66% versus 60%); the differences among young women were muted.

Commensurate with low levels of marriage preparedness, not all youth reported that they had looked forward to or had been excited about their marriages. Gender differences were pronounced: while 49% of young men said that they had been excited about their marriages, only 9% of young women so reported. Rural-urban differences were negligible. More than half of young women (55%) reported that they had been very scared about getting married, compared to few (6%) young men; more rural than urban young women so reported (56% versus 45%).

10.5 Payment of dowry

Despite the existence of laws against dowry, Figure 10.3 shows that 68% of youth reported giving or taking dowry. Rural-urban differences in dowry reporting were modest among young men, but wide among young women; more urban than rural young women reported that their families had given dowry (85% versus 67%). These findings highlight that the practice of dowry remained just as strong among families of urban youth as among their rural counterparts.

Figure 10.3: Percentage of married youth who reported receiving or giving dowry, according to residence, Bihar, 2007



10.6 Early marital experiences: Spousal communication and interaction

Table 10.5 describes the extent of communication and interaction among young couples and confirms that communication even on everyday matters was far from universal (see also Figure 10.4). Between 78% and 88% of youth reported regularly discussing how to spend money and in-law issues. On both these matters, differences in reported communication by sex and place of residence of the respondent were negligible.

Likewise, 78–84% reported that they had ever communicated with their spouse on when and/or whether to have children or how many children to have, with little variation by sex or place of residence of the respondents. In contrast, discussion was more limited on the topic of contraception and notably, fewer young men (38%) than women (72%) reported that they had ever discussed contraception with their spouse. Rural-urban differences were somewhat wide; 46% of urban young men compared to 37% of rural young men reported such communication. The corresponding percentages among young women were 80% and 71%, respectively.

Spousal interaction was also measured by questions regarding whether, in the six months preceding the interview, respondents had gone with their spouse to a movie, been on an outing or gone to their own (for young women) or wife's (for young men) natal home. Interaction of these types was clearly limited. Of the three places indicated, the majority had visited their own/ wife's natal home together with the spouse, but even this was not universal, reported by just 56% of young men and 45% of young women. Rural-urban differences were apparent, with urban youth somewhat more likely to report visiting their own/ wife's natal homes with the spouse than rural youth (63% versus 56% among young men and 57% versus 45% among young women). Visiting places of entertainment was reported by relatively few youth, particularly young women. For example, while 37% of young men reported that they had been together with their wife on an outing (festival, picnic, etc.), only 15% of young women reported that they had done so with their husband; while 45% and 29% of urban young men and women, respectively, reported that they had been on an outing with their spouse, only 36% and 14% of rural young men and women, respectively, so reported.

Youth were also asked to assess their relative contentment with married life. Almost half of young men (47%) and over one-quarter of young women (28%) reported that they were very happy. Another half of young men (49%) and two-thirds of young women (66%) reported they were reasonably happy.

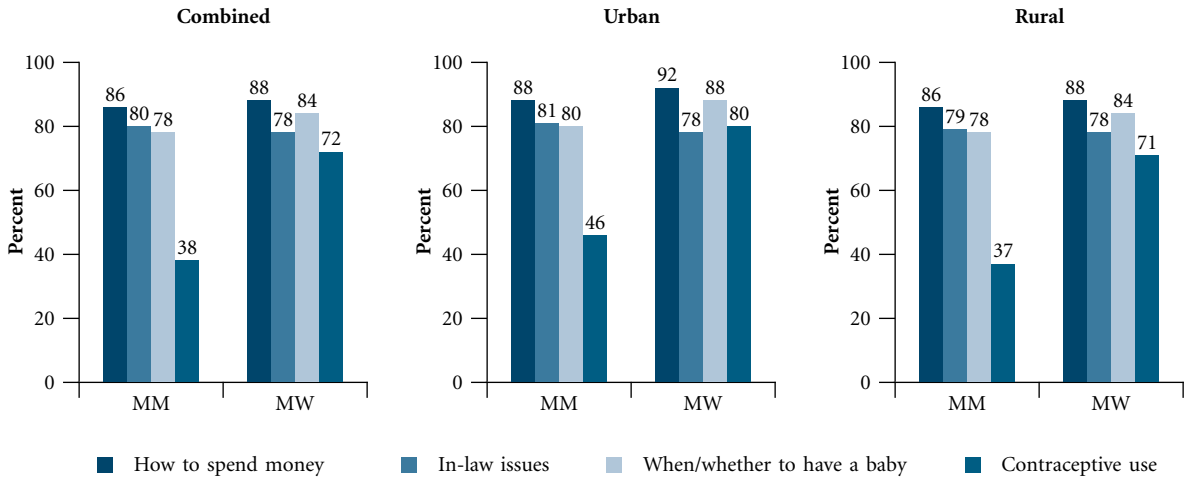
Table 10.5: Early marital experiences

Percentage of married youth by selected characteristics of the marital relationship, according to residence, Bihar, 2007

Characteristics (%)	MM 15–29	MW 15–24	MM 15–29	MW 15–24	MM 15–29	MW 15–24
	Combined		Urban		Rural	
Usually communicates with spouse on:						
How to spend money	86.3	88.2	87.5	92.0	86.3	88.0
In-law issues	79.6	78.1	80.9	78.1	79.4	78.1
Ever communicated with spouse on:						
When/whether to have a baby	77.9	84.0	79.5	88.4	77.8	83.7
Number of children to have	79.7	83.2	80.7	88.4	79.6	82.9
Contraceptive use	37.5	71.6	46.1	79.7	36.7	71.0
Went with spouse to the following in last 6 months:						
Theatre/video parlour	10.2	6.7	22.7	19.0	9.0	5.9
Festival/*yatra*/*tamasha*/play/tour/picnic/restaurant	36.8	15.3	44.9	29.2	36.1	14.3
Woman's/wife's natal home	56.3	45.3	62.5	56.5	55.7	44.5
Assessment of married life						
Very happy	46.6	27.7	46.6	34.8	46.7	27.2
Reasonably happy	49.1	65.7	50.0	58.7	48.9	66.1
Unhappy	2.9	3.5	2.3	3.6	3.0	3.5
Very unhappy	1.4	3.1	1.1	2.9	1.4	3.1
Number who had begun cohabiting	**1,072**	**2,236**	**525**	**1,102**	**547**	**1,134**

Note: All Ns are unweighted. Column totals may not equal 100% due to missing cases or "don't know" responses.

Figure 10.4: Percentage of married youth who reported spousal communication on selected topics, according to residence, Bihar, 2007



10.7 Nature of marital sexual experiences

In several previous studies, significant minorities of young women reported the experience of forced sex within marriage, including at initiation (see for example, Santhya and Jejeebhoy, 2006; Santhya et al., 2007). The Youth Study explored the extent to which early marital sexual experiences were enjoyable or forced. Findings, presented in Table 10.6, suggest that while virtually all young men reported enjoying their first marital sexual experience, far fewer young women so reported: 97% compared to 32%. While rural-urban differences were muted among young men, somewhat more urban than rural young women reported enjoying the first sexual experience. A comparison of responses to questions regarding whether the spouse enjoyed the first sexual experience suggests that young men may have been unaware of their wives' negative experience and that young women may have been unaware of their husbands' positive experience: 49% of young men perceived that their wives had enjoyed the first sexual experience (compared to 32% of young women who reported that they had enjoyed the first sexual experience) and 51% young women perceived that their husbands had enjoyed the experience (far less than that reported by men themselves (97%).

For many young women, the first marital sexual experience was painful or non-consensual; many fewer young men, however, perceived that the first experience was painful or non-consensual for their wives. For example, while over four-fifths of young women reported that the experience was painful, just half of young men reported that the experience had been painful for their wives.

Forced sex at initiation was reported by almost half of young women (49%) with somewhat larger proportions of rural than urban women reporting so (49% and 43%, respectively). In contrast, only 13% of young men reported that they had forced their wives to engage in sex the first time, with little rural-urban variation. Over the course of their marital lives, somewhat more young people acknowledged the experience (young women) or perpetration (young men) of forced sex within marriage: 54% of young women reported that they had ever experienced forced sex within marriage and 25% of young men reported that they had ever perpetrated it. Rural-urban differences were modest. Recent experience of such an incident, that is, within the 12 months preceding the interview, was reported by 11% of young men and 27% of young women who had cohabited for at least one year, with only modest rural-urban differences.

Table 10.6: Sexual experiences within marriage

Percentage of married youth by nature of first and lifetime sexual experiences with spouse, according to residence, Bihar, 2007

Experiences (%)	MM 15–29	MW 15–24	MM 15–29	MW 15–24	MM 15–29	MW 15–24
	Combined		Urban		Rural	
Nature of first sexual experience with spouse						
Respondent enjoyed it	97.2	32.2	97.8	38.4	97.1	31.8
Spouse enjoyed it	49.3	50.6	56.2	49.3	48.6	50.7
Wife cried	40.5	67.9	42.0	57.7	40.4	68.6
Painful for wife	49.8	87.1	51.1	84.1	49.7	87.3
Wife unwilling and husband forced her	13.1	48.7	10.2	43.2	13.3	49.0
Husband ever forced wife to have sex	24.8	53.7	21.3	50.0	25.1	54.0
Number who had begun cohabiting	**1,072**	**2,236**	**525**	**1,102**	**547**	**1,134**
Husband forced wife to have sex in last 12 months	11.0	27.3	7.7	30.6	11.3	27.0
Number who had cohabited for at least 12 months	**955**	**2,017**	**462**	**990**	**493**	**1,027**

Note: All Ns are unweighted.

10.8 Experience of domestic violence within marriage

The Youth Study explored the extent of domestic violence or verbal abuse perpetrated by young men on their wives and in less detail, by women on their husbands. Young men's and women's reports of both overall levels of violence and types of violence experienced or perpetrated were remarkably similar.

Both young men and women agreed that women rarely humiliate or perpetrate violence on their husbands. Table 10.7 shows that 5% or fewer young women had either verbally humiliated their husbands in the presence of others or perpetrated violence on them in any way. No differences were observed by respondents' sex or place of residence.

In contrast, considerably larger proportions of young men were reported to have humiliated their wives verbally in the presence of others or perpetrated physical violence in some form on their wives. Verbal humiliation was reported by a minority (4% and 8% of young men and women, respectively). Many more—over one-quarter of youth (30%)—reported the experience (women) or perpetration (men) of some form of physical violence, with somewhat more rural youth reporting the experience (women) or perpetration (men) than urban youth (30% of rural youth versus 24–25% of urban youth) (see also Figure 10.5).

Of all forms of physical violence, slapping was most commonly reported (29%), followed by twisting of the wife's arm or pulling her hair (12–15%). Between 7% and 9% of young women also reported the experience of being pushed, shaken or having something thrown at them, punched, kicked, dragged or beaten; somewhat fewer, between 3% and 7% of young men reported perpetrating these forms of violence on their wives. It is notable that 2% of young women reported that they had been burnt or choked by their husbands. Also notable is the finding that 14% of young men reported perpetrating more than one form of violence on their wives and 16% of young women reported experiencing more than one form of violence at the hands of their husbands.

Perpetration or experience of any form of physical violence within marriage in the 12 months preceding the interview was reported by 19% of young men and 24% of young women. As earlier, slapping was most commonly reported; 17% of young men reported slapping their wives and 23% of young women reported being slapped by their husbands in the 12 months preceding the interview.

Figure 10.5 Percentage of married young women reporting experience of physical violence perpetrated by their husband and percentage of married young men reporting perpetration of physical violence against their wife, according to residence, Bihar, 2007

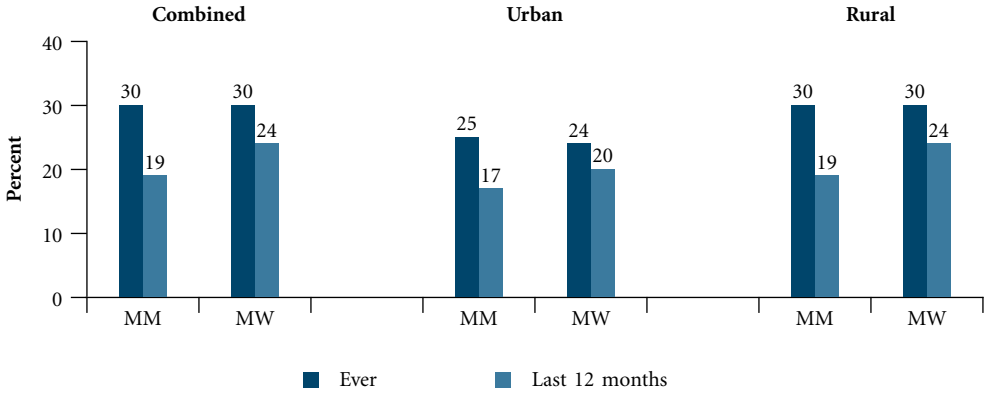


Table 10.7: Domestic violence within marriage

Percentage of married youth reporting experience of verbal abuse or physical violence within marriage by type of violence, according to residence, Bihar, 2007

Types of violence (%)	MM 15–29	MW 15–24	MM 15–29	MW 15–24	MM 15–29	MW 15–24
	Combined		Urban		Rural	
A. Verbal abuse or physical violence perpetrated by wife						
Wife verbally abused husband in the presence of others	3.9	4.5	3.4	5.1	4.1	4.5
Wife ever perpetrated any physical violence on husband	0.4	0.5	0.0	0.7	0.4	0.5
Wife perpetrated any physical violence on husband in last 12 months	0.2	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.1
Number who had begun cohabiting	**1,072**	**2,236**	**525**	**1,102**	**547**	**1,134**
B. Verbal abuse or physical violence perpetrated by husband						
Husband verbally abused wife in the presence of others	3.5	7.8	3.4	8.0	3.7	7.7
Physical violence ever perpetrated by husband						
Slapped wife	28.8	29.2	24.7	23.9	29.2	29.6
Twisted wife's arm or pulled her hair	11.5	14.9	11.2	13.0	11.5	15.0
Pushed/shook or threw something at wife	7.2	9.4	5.6	9.4	7.4	9.4
Punched wife	5.0	7.0	2.3	7.2	5.3	7.0
Kicked, dragged or beat wife	2.6	7.0	1.1	6.5	2.7	7.1
Choked or burnt wife on purpose	0.4	2.0	0.0	2.2	0.4	2.0
Threatened or attacked wife with knife/gun	0.2	0.5	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.5
Perpetrated/experienced at least one of the above forms of violence	29.7	29.7	25.0	23.9	30.1	30.1
Perpetrated/experienced more than one of the above forms of violence	13.9	16.4	11.4	14.5	14.1	16.6
Experience of violence perpetrated by husband in last 12 months						
Slapped wife						
Never	82.5	77.3	83.1	81.2	82.4	77.0
Sometimes	16.9	20.6	15.7	17.4	17.0	20.8
Often	0.0	2.0	0.0	1.4	0.0	2.0
Twisted wife's arm or pulled her hair						
Never	92.8	87.7	93.2	89.9	92.9	87.5
Sometimes	6.8	10.6	6.8	8.7	6.7	10.7
Often	0.0	1.6	0.0	1.4	0.0	1.6
Pushed/shook or threw something at wife						
Never	96.5	92.1	96.6	92.8	96.4	92.0
Sometimes	3.5	6.8	3.4	6.5	3.6	6.8
Often	0.0	0.8	0.0	0.7	0.0	0.8
Punched wife						
Never	97.3	94.4	98.9	94.2	97.2	94.4
Sometimes	2.7	5.0	1.1	5.1	2.8	5.0
Often	0.0	0.6	0.0	0.7	0.0	0.6

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Table 10.7: (Cont'd)

Types of violence (%)	MM 15–29	MW 15–24	MM 15–29	MW 15–24	MM 15–29	MW 15–24
	Combined		Urban		Rural	
B. Verbal abuse or physical violence perpetrated by husband						
Kicked, dragged or beat wife						
Never	99.0	94.3	100.0	94.9	98.9	94.3
Sometimes	1.0	5.1	0.0	4.3	1.1	5.1
Often	0.0	0.6	0.0	0.7	0.0	0.6
Choked or burnt wife on purpose						
Never	100.0	98.7	100.0	98.6	100.0	98.7
Sometimes	0.0	1.0	0.0	1.4	0.0	1.0
Often	0.0	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.3
Threatened or attacked wife with knife/gun						
Never	100.0	99.7	100.0	100.0	100.0	99.7
Sometimes	0.0	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.2
Often	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1
Perpetrated/experienced at least one of the above forms of violence in last 12 months	18.7	23.6	17.0	19.6	18.8	23.9
Number who had begun cohabiting	**1,072**	**2,236**	**525**	**1,102**	**547**	**1,134**
Experienced violence in first 12 months of marriage	8.4	9.4	7.8	9.8	8.5	9.3
Number who had cohabited for at least 12 months	**955**	**2,017**	**462**	**990**	**493**	**1,027**

Note: All Ns are unweighted. Column totals may not equal 100% due to missing cases or "don't know" responses.

Findings on the duration between marriage and the first occurrence of physical violence (among those who had cohabited for at least one year) indicate that a small minority of youth (8–9%) reported perpetration or experience of physical violence within a year of marriage. Rural-urban differences were muted.

10.9 Extent and nature of extra-marital sexual relations

The Youth Study did not probe as extensively about extra-marital sexual experiences as it did about pre-marital sex, discussed in Chapter 9. A single direct question was asked to all married youth about whether they had experienced sexual relations with someone other than their spouse following marriage. In addition, youth reporting same-sex, exchange, forced or sex worker sex were probed about the timing of the first such encounter; for very few, it occurred following marriage. Given the lack of extensive probing, we caution readers that percentages of youth reporting extra-marital sexual experience, indicated in Table 10.8, may be particularly under-reported.

Hardly any (0.4%) young women reported an extra-marital sexual encounter. In contrast, 4% of young men—including 3% of urban young men and 4% of rural young men—reported an extra-marital sexual encounter. Among young men, 1% reported extra-marital sex in the one year (or months since marriage for those married for less than one year) preceding the interview.

Table 10.8: Extent of extra-marital sexual experiences

Percentage of married youth by extent of extra-marital sexual experiences, according to residence, Bihar, 2007

Experiences (%)	MM 15–29	MW 15–24	MM 15–29	MW 15–24	MM 15–29	MW 15–24
	Combined		Urban		Rural	
Had sex with someone other than spouse after marriage	3.7	0.4	3.4	0.0	3.9	0.4
Reported at least one extra-marital sexual partner in last 12 months	0.9	0.2	1.1	0.0	0.9	0.2
Number who had begun cohabiting	**1,072**	**2,236**	**525**	**1,102**	**547**	**1,134**

Note: All Ns are unweighted.

10.10 Contraceptive practice within marriage: Lifetime, current and prior to first pregnancy

The practise of contraception at any time during marital life was limited, reported by 23% of young men and 20% of young women (see Table 10.9 and Figure 10.6). Urban youth were more likely than rural youth to report ever use of contraceptives (33% versus 22% among young men and 31% versus 19% among young women). Somewhat fewer youth reported ever use of modern contraceptive methods (21% of young men and 15% of young women); 28–32% of urban youth and 14–20% of rural youth reported as such. Modern methods most likely to have been reported by both men and women were condoms (reported by 15% of young men and 8% of young women) and oral pills (reported by 7% of young men and 4% of young women). Despite the young age of female respondents, some 4% of young women and 3% of young men reported they/their wives had been sterilised. Traditional contraceptive method use was somewhat more likely to be reported by young women than men (6% versus 3%). Rural-urban differences in methods ever used were negligible, except that more urban than rural youth reported ever use of condoms (17–26% versus 8–14%).

Relatively fewer youth (12%) reported practising contraception at the time of the interview, with urban youth were more likely than their rural counterparts to report current contraceptive use (21% versus 11%). Condoms and female sterilisation were the leading methods reported (6% and 3% of young men, respectively and 3% and 4% of young women, respectively). Young women, in addition, also reported practice of traditional methods (3%). Differences by residence were narrow, except that more urban youth reported use of condoms than did rural youth (7–13% versus 3–5%).

The duration between marriage and first use of contraception was also explored. Very few youth reported that they had practiced contraception early within marriage, just 8% of young men and 3% of young women reported that they had initiated contraceptive use in the first six months of marriage. Rural-urban differences were modest, with somewhat more urban than rural young men reporting contraceptive use in the first six months of marriage (14% versus 7%). Moreover, just 6% of youth reported initiation of contraceptive use between six months and three years following marriage. Despite these small proportions, we note that of those who report ever having practiced contraception, one in three young men and one in eight young women reported initiating contraceptive use within the first six months following marriage.

Consistent with this profile, just 8% of young men and 4% of young women reported the practise of contraception to delay the first pregnancy. Again, the method most likely to have been used was condoms (5% of young men and 2% of young women). Somewhat larger percentages of urban than rural young men reported the practice of contraception to delay the first pregnancy (15% versus 8%); differences were negligible among young women (7% and 4%, respectively).

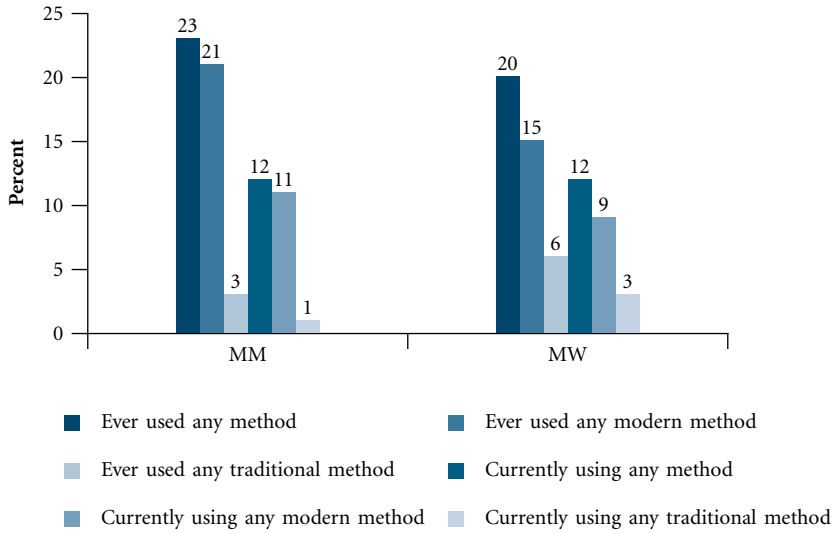
Table 10.9: Contraceptive use within marriage

Percentage of married youth by ever and current contraceptive use, percent distribution by duration between marriage and initiation of contraceptive use and percentage who used different contraceptive methods to delay first pregnancy, according to residence, Bihar, 2007

Contraceptive use (%)	MM 15–29	MW 15–24	MM 15–29	MW 15–24	MM 15–29	MW 15–24
	Combined		Urban		Rural	
Ever use of contraception						
Any method	**23.1**	**20.0**	**33.0**	**31.2**	**22.3**	**19.3**
Any modern method	**20.7**	**15.2**	**31.5**	**27.5**	**19.7**	**14.4**
Female sterilisation	3.3	4.1	4.5	5.8	3.2	4.0
Male sterilisation	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Oral pills	6.7	4.3	5.7	7.2	6.8	4.1
IUD	0.6	0.3	1.1	2.2	0.5	0.2
Condom	15.2	8.4	26.1	16.7	14.2	7.8
Other[1]	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.7	0.0	0.1
Any traditional method[2]	**3.4**	**6.4**	**3.4**	**6.5**	**3.4**	**6.4**
Number who had begun cohabiting	**1,072**	**2,236**	**525**	**1,102**	**547**	**1,134**
Current use of contraception						
Any method	**12.2**	**11.8**	**20.5**	**21.0**	**11.4**	**11.1**
Any modern method	**10.9**	**8.7**	**19.3**	**17.4**	**10.2**	**8.1**
Female sterilisation	3.3	4.1	4.5	5.8	3.2	4.0
Male sterilisation	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Oral pills	1.7	1.1	2.3	2.9	1.5	1.0
IUD	0.5	0.1	0.0	0.7	0.5	0.1
Condom	5.7	3.3	12.5	7.2	5.1	3.0
Other[1]	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Any traditional method[2]	**1.3**	**3.3**	**2.2**	**3.6**	**1.2**	**3.2**
Number who had begun cohabiting	**1,072**	**2,236**	**525**	**1,102**	**547**	**1,134**
Duration between marriage and first use of contraception						
Duration						
Less than 6 months	7.6	2.6	13.8	5.1	7.0	2.4
6–11 months	1.0	0.7	1.1	0.7	1.0	0.7
12 months to 3 years	5.2	4.8	8.0	8.0	4.9	4.5
More than 3 years	3.8	5.2	4.6	5.1	3.8	5.2
Don't know/don't remember	5.5	6.7	4.6	11.7	5.6	6.4
Never used contraception	76.9	80.0	67.8	69.3	77.7	80.8
Number who had begun cohabiting	**1,072**	**2,236**	**525**	**1,102**	**547**	**1,134**
Ever use of contraception to delay first pregnancy						
Any method	**8.2**	**4.3**	**14.8**	**6.5**	**7.6**	**4.2**
Any modern method	**6.8**	**2.5**	**13.6**	**5.8**	**6.2**	**2.3**
Oral pills	2.2	0.5	3.4	0.7	2.1	0.5
IUD	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Condom	5.4	2.3	12.5	5.1	4.8	2.1
Other[1]	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Any traditional method[2]	**2.0**	**1.9**	**1.1**	**1.4**	**2.0**	**1.9**
Number who had begun cohabiting	**1,072**	**2,236**	**525**	**1,102**	**547**	**1,134**

Note: All Ns are unweighted. Column totals may not equal 100% due to missing cases. [1]Includes female condoms, injectables, implants, diaphragm and foam/jelly. [2]Includes periodic abstinence/rhythm and withdrawal.

Figure 10.6: Percentage of married youth reporting lifetime and current use of contraceptive methods within marriage, Bihar, 2007



10.11 Reproductive history

This section addresses young people's reproductive histories, namely, the first pregnancy and its outcome, children ever born and surviving, experience of pregnancy loss and the wantedness of recent pregnancies. As reported in Table 10.10, 80% of young women and 79% of young men reported that they or their wives had experienced at least one pregnancy. Rural-urban differences were narrow.

10.11.1 First pregnancy experiences

Of those who reported that they or their wives had ever become pregnant, significant minorities reported current first pregnancy (7% of young women and 8% of young men, respectively). Among those who had experienced at least one pregnancy, the first pregnancy occurred within a year of marriage for half of young men and almost two-fifths of young women. We note that 34% of young women and 16% of young men reported that they could not remember the duration between cohabitation and the first pregnancy, making gender comparisons difficult. Rural-urban differences suggest that the first pregnancy occurred within a year of marriage for a larger proportion of urban than rural youth (55–65% versus 37–50%). The median duration between marriage and first pregnancy was 10 months for both young women and the wives of young men. Rural youth reported somewhat longer median duration than their urban counterparts (10–11 months reported by rural youth compared to 6–8 months reported by urban youth).

Pregnancy outcomes were reported by all respondents who had completed their first pregnancy. Although the vast majority had experienced a live birth in every group, considerable proportions had experienced miscarriages and stillbirths: for 4–5% the pregnancy ended in a stillbirth and for 7–9% in a miscarriage. In contrast, just 0.1% of young women had aborted their first pregnancy (not a single young man reported an induced abortion). Differences by sex and rural-urban residence were negligible.

Table 10.10: First pregnancy experience

Percentage of married youth by duration from cohabitation to first pregnancy, outcome of first pregnancy, place of first delivery and type of attendance at first delivery, according to residence, Bihar, 2007

First pregnancy experience (%)	MM 15–29	MW 15–24	MM 15–29	MW 15–24	MM 15–29	MW 15–24
	Combined		Urban		Rural	
Ever been pregnant	78.5	80.0	79.5	82.6	78.5	79.8
Number who had begun cohabiting	**1,072**	**2,236**	**525**	**1,102**	**547**	**1,134**
Currently pregnant for the first time	7.8	7.2	7.1	7.9	7.9	7.2
Duration from cohabitation to first pregnancy (months)						
Up to 3	12.1	9.8	17.4	17.7	11.5	9.2
3–6	18.9	12.9	23.2	21.2	18.5	12.3
7–12	20.3	15.7	24.6	15.9	19.9	15.6
13–24	19.1	17.8	14.5	15.0	19.5	18.0
More than 24	13.9	10.1	8.7	7.1	14.5	10.3
Do not know/can't remember	15.7	33.7	11.6	23.0	16.0	34.4
Median duration	10.0	10.0	8.0	6.0	10.0	11.0
Number who had ever been pregnant	**849**	**1,820**	**420**	**914**	**429**	**906**
Outcome of first pregnancy						
Live birth	86.8	89.2	90.6	86.8	86.5	89.2
Still birth	4.6	3.9	1.6	3.8	4.9	3.9
Induced abortion	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.9	0.0	0.1
Miscarriage	8.5	6.7	7.8	8.5	8.6	6.6
Number who completed first pregnancy	**784**	**1,680**	**390**	**839**	**394**	**841**
Place of first delivery						
Respondent's parental home	46.5	36.3	35.0	23.2	47.5	37.2
Spouse's parental home	30.3	38.7	25.0	26.3	30.7	39.5
Health institution	23.0	24.9	40.0	50.5	21.5	23.2
In transit	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1
Type of attendance at first delivery[1]						
Doctor/ANM/nurse/LHV	33.1	30.5	55.0	61.1	31.1	28.5
Midwife (trained)	6.9	2.2	10.0	1.1	6.7	2.2
Other health personnel	2.0	2.2	1.7	1.1	2.0	2.3
Dai/traditional birth attendant	44.9	52.6	26.7	27.4	46.5	54.2
Friend/relative	11.4	11.6	5.0	8.4	12.0	11.8
Other person[2]	0.4	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.5	0.3
None	1.0	0.1	1.7	0.0	0.9	0.1
Number whose first pregnancy outcome was a live or still birth	**717**	**1,547**	**356**	**765**	**361**	**782**

Note: All Ns are unweighted. Column totals may not equal 100% due to missing cases or "don't know" responses. ANM: Auxiliary nurse midwife; LHV: Lady health visitor. [1]If the respondent reported that the delivery had occurred in a health institution, then it was assumed that a doctor/ANM/nurse/LHV had attended the birth. [2]If the delivery was reported in transit, attendance at delivery was categorised as "other person".

Institutional delivery was extremely limited for the first—and most risky—delivery. Indeed, just 23–25% of youth reported that the first delivery took place in a health institution. Rural-urban differences were pronounced: 40% of young men and 51% of young women in urban areas reported an institutional delivery, compared to just 22–23% of youth in rural areas.

Skilled attendance at delivery was also limited; over two-fifths of young men (42%) and one-third of young women (35%) reported skilled attendance at first delivery. Rural-urban differences were pronounced; 63–67% of urban youth reported skilled attendance at delivery, compared to 33–40% of rural youth. The fact that skilled attendance at birth exceeded institutional delivery may reflect the practice of home deliveries by ANMs and LHVs on the one hand and the tendency to refer to RMPs as doctors among many on the other (see for example, Barnes 2007).

10.11.2 Children ever born and surviving

Findings, revealed in Table 10.11, show that youth had experienced an average of about 1.7 pregnancies and just over one live birth. Differences by sex and place of residence of respondents were negligible.

Table 10.11: Reproductive history

Mean number of pregnancies experienced, percent distribution by children ever born and children surviving, and mean number of child deaths, stillbirths, miscarriages and abortions among married youth, according to residence, Bihar, 2007

Pregnancy outcomes (%)	MM 15–29	MW 15–24	MM 15–29	MW 15–24	MM 15–29	MW 15–24
	Combined		Urban		Rural	
Mean number of lifetime pregnancies	1.7	1.7	1.6	1.8	1.7	1.7
Number of children ever born						
0	30.4	28.4	30.3	26.6	30.4	28.5
1	28.0	26.4	28.1	25.9	27.9	26.4
2	22.4	25.4	24.7	28.8	22.3	25.1
3	12.6	12.9	11.2	12.2	12.7	12.9
4 or more	6.6	7.0	5.6	6.5	6.7	7.1
Mean number of children ever born	1.3	1.4	1.3	1.4	1.3	1.4
Number of children surviving						
0	32.4	29.2	31.5	27.7	32.5	29.3
1	28.9	29.2	29.2	28.5	28.8	29.2
2	21.8	25.3	24.7	29.2	21.6	25.1
3	11.6	11.3	10.1	10.9	11.8	11.3
4 or more	5.2	5.0	4.5	3.6	5.3	5.0
Mean number of children surviving	1.2	1.3	1.2	1.3	1.2	1.3
Mean number of sons surviving	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.7	0.6	0.6
Mean number of daughters surviving	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6
Mean number of children dead	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
Reported one or more still births	4.2	4.8	2.2	3.6	4.4	4.9
Reported one or more miscarriages	9.3	8.9	9.0	11.6	9.5	8.7
Reported one or more induced abortions	0.3	1.0	1.1	2.2	0.2	0.9
Number who had begun cohabiting	**1,072**	**2,236**	**525**	**1,102**	**547**	**1,134**

Note: All Ns are unweighted. Column totals may not equal 100% due to missing cases or "don't know" responses.

Few youth reported an infant or child death. The distribution of respondents by number of surviving children resembles that of children ever born, reported above. Youth typically reported about as many daughters as sons.

Somewhat more youth reported the experience of pregnancy loss. For example, stillbirths were reported by about 4–5% of youth. At least one miscarriage was reported by 9% of youth, and induced abortion was reported by 0.3% of young men and 1% of young women. Rural-urban differences in the experience of pregnancy loss were negligible.

Table 10.12 reports mean numbers of children ever born and surviving by respondents' socio-demographic characteristics. As expected, age was positively associated with both fertility indicators, irrespective of rural-urban residence. Religion- and caste-specific differences were narrow; however in urban areas, young

Table 10.12: Children ever born and surviving by selected background characteristics

Mean number of children ever born and children surviving among married youth by selected background characteristics, according to residence, Bihar, 2007

Background characteristics (mean number)	MM 15–29		MW 15–24		MM 15–29		MW 15–24		MM 15–29		MW 15–24	
	Combined				Urban				Rural			
	CEB	CS	CEB	CS	CEB	CS	CEB	CS	CEB	CS	CEB	CS
Age (years)												
15–19	(0.2)	(0.2)	0.6	0.6	*	*	0.6	0.6	(0.2)	(0.2)	0.6	0.6
20–24	0.8	0.8	2.0	1.8	0.9	0.9	1.7	1.6	0.8	0.8	2.0	1.9
25–29	1.8	1.7	NA	NA	1.6	1.5	NA	NA	1.9	1.7	NA	NA
Religion												
Hindu	1.4	1.3	1.4	1.3	1.4	1.3	1.4	1.3	1.4	1.3	1.4	1.3
Muslim	1.2	1.2	1.6	1.5	1.3	1.2	1.6	1.4	1.2	1.2	1.6	1.5
Caste												
SC	1.4	1.2	1.4	1.3	1.7	1.5	1.6	1.4	1.4	1.2	1.4	1.3
OBC	1.4	1.3	1.5	1.4	1.3	1.3	1.5	1.4	1.4	1.3	1.5	1.4
General[1]	1.4	1.4	1.5	1.4	1.1	1.0	1.3	1.3	1.5	1.4	1.5	1.4
Educational level (years)												
None[2]	1.5	1.3	1.5	1.4	1.6	1.5	1.7	1.5	1.5	1.3	1.5	1.4
1–7	1.3	1.2	1.4	1.3	1.4	1.4	1.6	1.5	1.2	1.2	1.3	1.3
8–11	1.5	1.4	1.3	1.3	1.4	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.5	1.4	1.3	1.3
12 and above	1.3	1.2	1.0	1.0	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	1.3	1.3	*	*
Worked in last 12 months												
Yes	1.4	1.3	1.6	1.5	1.4	1.3	1.6	1.4	1.4	1.3	1.6	1.5
No	(0.7)	(0.7)	1.4	1.3	*	*	1.4	1.4	*	*	1.4	1.3
Wealth quintile												
First	1.5	1.4	1.5	1.4	*	*	(1.3)	(1.2)	1.5	1.4	1.5	1.4
Second	1.6	1.4	1.5	1.4	(1.6)	(1.5)	1.6	1.5	1.6	1.4	1.5	1.4
Third	1.3	1.3	1.4	1.3	(1.5)	(1.5)	1.7	1.5	1.3	1.3	1.4	1.3
Fourth	1.3	1.3	1.4	1.3	1.5	1.4	1.6	1.5	1.3	1.3	1.4	1.3
Fifth	1.3	1.2	1.5	1.4	1.2	1.2	1.4	1.3	1.3	1.2	1.5	1.4
Total	**1.4**	**1.3**	**1.5**	**1.3**	**1.3**	**1.3**	**1.5**	**1.4**	**1.4**	**1.3**	**1.5**	**1.3**

*Note: ( ) Based on 25–49 unweighted cases. *Mean not shown, based on fewer than 25 unweighted cases. CEB: Children ever born. CS: Children surviving. NA: Not applicable. OBC: Other backward caste. SC: Scheduled caste. ST: Scheduled tribe. [1]Includes all those not belonging to SC, ST or OBC. [2]Includes non-literate and literate with no formal schooling.*

men belonging to scheduled castes were more likely than others to report more children ever born and surviving. Educational attainment level was, by and large, inversely associated with both children ever born and children surviving among young women, an association observed however in urban but not in rural areas. Among young men, a similar association was observed only in urban settings. Findings also show that young men (but not young women) who had worked in the year preceding the survey reported more children ever born and surviving than those who had not worked. Differentials in children ever born by household economic status were narrow.

10.11.3 Wantedness of recent pregnancies

All youth who reported one or more pregnancies were asked about the wantedness of their current (for those currently pregnant) or last pregnancies. Findings, presented in Table 10.13, suggest high levels of unplanned pregnancy. Gender differences were notable, with young women consistently more likely than young men to report a mistimed or unwanted pregnancy. For example, among young men whose wives were not pregnant and young women who were not pregnant at the time of interview, 23% of young men and 33% of young women reported that the last pregnancy was mistimed or unwanted. Rural-urban differences were muted among young men, but wide among young women, with larger percentages of urban young women than the rural reporting that the last pregnancy was mistimed or unwanted (45% versus 32%). A similar pattern emerged with regard to the wantedness of the current pregnancy among those pregnant at the time of interview or whose wives were pregnant at the time of interview: of those young men who reported that their wives were pregnant at the time of the interview, 19% reported that the pregnancy was either unwanted or wanted at a later time. In contrast, 39% of young women pregnant at the time of interview reported that the pregnancy was unwanted or mistimed. Somewhat more urban than rural youth reported that the current pregnancy was mistimed or unwanted (29% and 44% of urban young men and women, respectively, compared to 19% and 39% of rural counterparts, respectively).

Table 10.13: Wantedness of most recent pregnancy

Percentage of married youth by wantedness of most recent pregnancy in the three years preceding the interview, according to residence, Bihar, 2007

Status (%)	MM 15–29	MW 15–24	MM 15–29	MW 15–24	MM 15–29	MW 15–24
	Combined		Urban		Rural	
Wantedness status of *last* pregnancy[1]						
Planned	76.5	66.5	74.2	55.2	76.6	67.3
Mistimed	20.5	27.0	22.7	37.1	20.4	26.3
Unwanted	2.7	5.9	1.5	7.6	2.8	5.8
Number who had experienced at least one pregnancy	**784**	**1,680**	**390**	**839**	**394**	**841**
Wantedness status of *current* pregnancy						
Planned	80.9	60.5	71.4	56.0	81.5	60.8
Mistimed	15.1	31.2	28.6	36.0	14.7	30.9
Unwanted	4.0	7.7	0.0	8.0	3.8	7.7
Number currently pregnant	**189**	**393**	**87**	**205**	**102**	**188**

Note: All Ns are unweighted. Column totals may not equal 100% due to missing cases or "don't know" responses. [1]Excludes respondents/respondents' wives currently pregnant for the first time or never been pregnant.

10.12 Ideal family size

All respondents were asked to report the number of children they considered ideal, and among these the number of sons and daughters considered ideal. As several respondents reported that they were unconcerned about the sex of children, a third response "children of either sex" was also recorded.

As seen in Table 10.14, young men and women reported an ideal family size of 2.7 children. Ideal number of children expressed by rural youth (2.7–2.8) slightly exceeded the number expressed by urban youth (2.4) and considerably larger percentages of rural than urban youth reported three or more children as ideal (51–52% versus 32–35%).

Table 10.14: Ideal family size

Percentage of married youth by their reported ideal number of children, according to residence, Bihar, 2007

Ideal family size (%)	MM 15–29	MW 15–24	MM 15–29	MW 15–24	MM 15–29	MW 15–24
	Combined		Urban		Rural	
Ideal number of children:						
1	1.7	1.8	4.5	5.1	1.4	1.6
2	41.9	41.5	55.1	58.0	40.7	40.4
3 or more	50.7	50.1	34.8	31.9	52.1	51.3
Other[1]	5.7	6.6	5.6	5.1	5.8	6.7
Mean ideal number of children[2]	2.7	2.7	2.4	2.4	2.8	2.7
Number who had begun cohabiting	**1,072**	**2,236**	**525**	**1,102**	**547**	**1,134**

Note: All Ns are unweighted. Column totals may not equal 100% due to missing cases or "don't know" responses. [1]Includes "it's up to God," "difficult to say," etc. [2]Includes only respondents who gave numeric responses.

Tables 10.15a and 10.15b present the ideal number of sons and daughters reported by young men and women by a number of socio-demographic characteristics. Son preference was evident, with young men and women reporting a preference for 1.3–1.4 sons compared to 0.9–1.0 daughters. Indeed, 37% of young men and 43% of young women reported a preference for more sons than daughters. Son preference was more common among rural than urban youth; 38–44% of rural youth compared to 27–28% of urban youth reported a preference for more sons than daughters. In contrast, no more than a handful (2–4%) reported wanting more daughters than sons. The preference for sons was evident among all respondents, irrespective of the socio-demographic characteristics under consideration; however, socio-demographic differences in patterns were evident and these varied somewhat between young men and women. Among young men, son preference was more common among older than younger men; 40% of those aged 25–29 years, compared to 33–34% of those aged 20–24 and 15–19 years respectively, reported a preference for more sons than daughters. In contrast, a reverse pattern was evident among young women (46% of 15–19 year-olds versus 41% of 20–24 year-olds). While religion-wise differences were narrow, it would appear that Hindus were somewhat more likely than Muslims to prefer more sons than daughters (43% versus 37% among young women; 37% and 33% among young men). Caste-wise differences suggest that among both young men and women, those of general castes were least likely to express son preference and those belonging to scheduled castes were most likely to so report. Differences by educational attainment levels were inverse, with those with 12 or more years of schooling considerably less likely than others to report son preference. Among both young men and women, son preference was consistently more common among the economically active than others. Finally, youth from households belonging to the wealthiest quintile were less likely than others to report son preference.

Table 10.15a: Married young men's preferences for sons and daughters by selected background characteristics

Mean ideal number of sons, daughters and children of either sex and some indicators of sex preference by selected background characteristics of married young men, according to residence, Bihar, 2007

Background characteristics	Mean ideal number of:			Indicators of sex preference			
				Percent who wanted:			
	Sons	Daughters	Children of either sex	More sons than daughters	More daughters than sons	At least one son	At least one daughter
Residence							
Urban	1.0	0.7	0.7	27.4	3.6	72.3	65.1
Rural	1.4	1.0	0.4	37.6	4.2	84.1	79.7
Age (years)							
15–19	(1.4)	(1.1)	(0.3)	(33.9)	(3.4)	(88.1)	(88.1)
20–24	1.2	0.9	0.5	32.8	4.6	79.9	75.9
25–29	1.4	1.0	0.4	39.6	4.1	84.6	79.1
Religion							
Hindu	1.3	1.0	0.4	37.4	4.0	84.6	79.7
Muslim	1.1	0.9	0.8	32.5	5.3	71.9	69.6
Caste							
SC	1.5	1.0	0.4	43.9	5.3	85.9	82.1
OBC	1.3	0.9	0.5	35.2	3.0	81.8	76.8
General[1]	1.1	0.9	0.6	29.8	7.0	81.6	77.2
Educational level (years)							
None[2]	1.4	0.9	0.6	43.3	3.3	81.1	73.4
1–7	1.3	1.0	0.4	36.0	6.1	84.2	81.1
8–11	1.4	0.9	0.3	38.5	2.5	86.3	83.5
12 and above	1.0	0.8	0.5	20.5	6.6	76.9	71.1
Worked in last 12 months							
Yes	1.3	0.9	0.5	36.9	4.4	83.1	78.5
No	(1.1)	(0.8)	(0.3)	(25.9)	(0.0)	(81.5)	(75.0)
Wealth quintile							
First	1.5	1.0	0.6	45.3	4.4	82.5	77.4
Second	1.4	0.9	0.5	44.1	3.5	84.0	75.9
Third	1.4	1.0	0.4	44.7	4.8	86.4	84.5
Fourth	1.3	1.0	0.4	32.3	5.3	85.8	82.7
Fifth	1.1	0.8	0.5	26.1	3.3	78.3	72.7
Total	**1.3**	**0.9**	**0.5**	**36.8**	**4.3**	**83.2**	**78.5**

Note: ( ) Based on 25–49 unweighted cases. OBC: Other backward caste. SC: Scheduled caste. ST: Scheduled tribe. [1]Includes all those not belonging to SC, ST or OBC. [2]Includes non-literate and literate with no formal schooling.

Table 10.15b: Married young women's preferences for sons and daughters by selected background characteristics

Mean ideal number of sons, daughters and children of either sex and some indicators of sex preference by selected background characteristics of married young women, according to residence, Bihar, 2007

Background characteristics	Mean ideal number of:			Indicators of sex preference			
				Percent who wanted:			
	Sons	Daughters	Children of either sex	More sons than daughters	More daughters than sons	At least one son	At least one daughter
Residence							
Urban	1.2	0.9	0.3	28.2	2.3	86.9	83.1
Rural	1.5	1.0	0.3	43.6	1.8	89.9	85.7
Age (years)							
15–19	1.5	1.0	0.2	46.0	2.4	90.0	86.6
20–24	1.4	1.0	0.3	40.5	1.5	89.5	84.8
Religion							
Hindu	1.4	1.0	0.2	43.3	1.7	90.5	86.2
Muslim	1.5	1.1	0.5	36.8	3.3	83.5	80.1
Caste							
SC	1.6	1.0	0.2	48.9	1.9	90.8	87.3
OBC	1.5	1.0	0.2	42.8	2.0	90.7	86.5
General[1]	1.1	0.8	0.5	24.8	1.0	80.7	75.2
Educational level (years)							
None[2]	1.6	1.0	0.2	49.4	1.8	91.5	86.3
1–7	1.4	1.0	0.3	39.8	1.4	90.3	87.7
8–11	1.1	0.9	0.3	23.3	2.8	84.4	81.6
12 and above	0.8	0.8	0.5	6.7	3.4	74.6	72.9
Worked in last 12 months							
Yes	1.6	1.0	0.2	51.0	2.3	92.2	87.1
No	1.4	0.9	0.3	37.9	1.7	88.3	84.7
Wealth quintile							
First	1.6	1.0	0.4	49.9	1.3	88.0	83.8
Second	1.6	1.1	0.1	47.5	2.1	93.3	89.3
Third	1.5	1.0	0.2	43.0	2.3	91.7	84.5
Fourth	1.4	1.0	0.2	44.5	2.4	90.7	87.8
Fifth	1.1	0.9	0.3	26.0	0.8	84.6	82.0
Total	**1.4**	**1.0**	**0.3**	**42.6**	**1.9**	**89.7**	**85.6**

Note: OBC: Other backward caste. SC: Scheduled caste. ST: Scheduled tribe. [1]Includes all those not belonging to SC, ST or OBC. [2]Includes non-literate and literate with no formal schooling.

10.13 Summary

Findings indicate that while most young men preferred to marry in young adulthood, almost one-quarter of young women preferred to marry before 18 years and as many as three-fifths preferred to marry before age 20, indicating an adherence to social norms around early marriage even by youth. Reiterating the fact that early marriage continues to characterise the lives of many young women and to certain extent the lives of young men as well, findings show that among young women aged 20–24 years as many as 46% were married before age 15, 77% before age 18 and 87% before age 20. Even though early marriage was less prevalent among young men, 13% of those aged 20–24 years were married before age 18 and 31% before age 20.

Not only did marriage occur at young ages but it was also often arranged without the participation of young people themselves, particularly young women. Almost all youth reported arranged marriages. As many as one in ten young men and over two in five young women reported that their parents did not seek their approval while determining their marriage partners. Hence, not surprisingly, reported pre-marital acquaintance was extremely limited. Just 4–7% of married youth reported that they had ever had a chance to meet and interact alone with their spouse-to-be prior to marriage. Over 90% of married youth reported that they met their spouses for the first time on the wedding day. Compounding the lack of pre-marital acquaintance was the lack of awareness of what to expect of married life, reported by over three-fifths of young men and four-fifths of young women.

Despite the existence of laws against dowry, dowry characterised the marriages of two-thirds of young men and women. Findings also show that families of urban youth appeared as likely to conform to traditional practices, such as payment of dowry, as their rural counterparts.

Reports of marital life suggest that although spousal communication was reported on several issues, it was far from universal. At the same time, marital life was marked by considerable violence. For example, couple communication on most topics was reported by over three in four young men and women, yet communication on contraceptive use was reported by somewhat fewer (72%) of women and almost two-fifths of young men, clearly undermining married young people's ability to adopt protective actions. Physical violence and forced sex within marriage were reported by considerable proportions of youth. For example, 30% of young women reported that they had ever faced violence perpetrated by the husband and a similar percentage of young men reported perpetrating violence on their wives. Recent violence was likewise reported by one-quarter of young women and one-fifth of young men. Sexual violence was also reported. Indeed, half of young women reported that the first sexual experience within marriage had been forced. Overall, over half of young women reported ever being forced to engage in sex with their husbands; one in four young men reported forcing their wives to engage in sex. Recent sexual violence was reported by 27% of young women and 11% of young men.

While the Youth Study did not explore extra-marital sexual experiences in detail, the available data indicate that 4% of young men reported an extra-marital sexual encounter. In contrast, hardly any young women reported an extra-marital sexual encounter.

Contraceptive use at any time within marriage was limited, reported by 23% of young men and 20% of young women. Moreover, just 12% of young men and women reported current use of contraception. Among contraceptive methods currently used, condoms and female sterilisation were most likely to be reported. Few young people practised contraception to delay the first birth—just 8% of young men and 4% of young women. Not surprisingly, pregnancy typically occurred within a year of marriage for almost two-fifths of young women and half of young men who reported that they or their wives had been pregnant at least once.

Moreover, large proportions of youth reported experiencing unintended pregnancy. For example, of those women who were not pregnant at the time of interview and those men whose wives were not pregnant at the time of interview, 33% of young women and 23% of young men reported that the last pregnancy was mistimed or unwanted.

Circumstances of the first birth suggest that institutional delivery and skilled attendance at delivery were extremely limited: only 23–25% of first births were delivered institutionally and 35–42% reported delivery by a skilled attendant.

Findings also show that although most respondents wanted one child of each sex, son preference was evident. Over one-third of young men and over two-fifths of young women preferred to have more sons than daughters. In contrast, just 2–4% preferred to have more daughters than sons.

Chapter 11

Health and health seeking behaviour

This chapter focuses on young people's patterns of substance use, health status and treatment-seeking for health problems experienced. The Youth Study probed alcohol, drug and tobacco use as well as, among those who reported substance use, consumption characteristics, including recent use and extent of use. It also included several questions relating to the experience of a number of health problems in the areas of general, sexual and reproductive health and mental health. This chapter also describes young people's care seeking practices for general and sexual and reproductive health problems as well as young people's attitudes towards pre-marital HIV testing for boys and girls and the extent to which youth had undergone an HIV test. Where numbers are small, we present combined findings for rural and urban respondents.

11.1 Substance use

Research has shown that substance use can directly compromise young people's health. For example, evidence suggests that use of alcohol and drugs among youth is associated with physical fights, risky sexual activity, depression and suicide as well as irregular school or work attendance and other negative outcomes (DiClemente, 1992; Ellickson, Saner and McGuigan, 1997; Gruber et al., 1996; Lowry et al., 1994; Mohan, Sankara Sarma and Thankappan, 2005; Singh and Saini, 2007).

Youth Study findings on the extent of substance use among young people themselves suggest that while less than 2% of young men (and no women) reported drug use (including, for example, *ganja, charas,* brown sugar, cocaine and *bhang*), a substantial proportion of young men and a small minority of young women reported consumption of tobacco and alcohol (Table 11.1). For example, 39% of young men and 2% of young women had ever consumed tobacco products. Most of those young men and women who had ever consumed tobacco products reported that they had done so once a week or more frequently in the month prior to interview. Married young men were considerably more likely than the unmarried to report that they had ever used tobacco products (69% and 32%, respectively) and tobacco use in the month prior to interview (62% and 25%, respectively); this difference may be attributable to the fact that tobacco use is observed in general to increase with age and married men in our sample are considerably older than the unmarried. Rural-urban differences were negligible.

Fewer youth reported alcohol consumption. In contrast to young women, among whom almost no one reported ever or current consumption of alcohol, larger percentages of young men reported ever consuming (17%) or recently consuming (5%) alcohol. As in the case of tobacco use, married young men were far more likely to have ever consumed alcohol than the unmarried (36% and 11%, respectively). Recent alcohol use—once a week or more frequently in the month prior to interview was reported by many fewer: 12% and 3% of married and unmarried young men, respectively. Rural-urban differences were negligible, except that somewhat more married young men in urban than rural settings reported having ever consumed alcohol (42% versus 35%). The large majority of young men who reported having ever consumed alcohol reported that they usually consumed alcohol with peers (81% and 83% of the married and unmarried, respectively) and 34% and 19% of married and unmarried men reported that they sometimes or often became drunk (not shown in tabular form).

Table 11.1: Substance use

Percentage of youth reporting lifetime and recent substance use, according to residence, Bihar, 2007

Substance use (%)	M 15–24	W 15–24	MM 15–29	MW 15–24	UM 15–24	UW 15–24
Combined						
Ever consumed						
Tobacco and its products	39.2	1.8	69.3	2.0	31.8	1.4
Alcohol	16.7	0.1	35.7	0.1	10.8	0.1
Drugs[1]	1.8	0.0	4.5	0.0	0.8	0.0
Consumed once a week or more frequently in last month						
Tobacco and its products	32.0	1.2	62.2	1.5	24.5	0.6
Alcohol	5.1	0.1	12.3	0.1	2.7	0.1
Drugs[1]	0.8	0.0	1.4	0.0	0.7	0.0
Number of respondents	**1,942**	**5,529**	**1,115**	**2,341**	**1,492**	**3,188**
Urban						
Ever consumed						
Tobacco and its products	35.8	1.1	70.7	1.4	31.4	0.6
Alcohol	15.8	0.2	42.4	0.0	12.7	0.2
Drugs[1]	1.8	0.0	3.3	0.0	1.2	0.0
Consumed once a week or more frequently in last month						
Tobacco and its products	30.5	0.8	67.4	1.4	25.7	0.2
Alcohol	3.2	0.0	12.0	0.0	2.5	0.0
Drugs[1]	0.7	0.0	1.1	0.0	0.8	0.0
Number of respondents	**1,039**	**2,581**	**547**	**1,136**	**833**	**1,445**
Rural						
Ever consumed						
Tobacco and its products	39.8	1.9	69.2	2.0	31.8	1.6
Alcohol	16.9	0.1	35.1	0.1	10.4	0.1
Drugs[1]	1.8	0.0	4.6	0.0	0.7	0.0
Consumed once a week or more frequently in last month						
Tobacco and its products	32.2	1.3	61.8	1.5	24.3	0.7
Alcohol	5.5	0.1	12.3	0.1	2.7	0.1
Drugs[1]	0.8	0.0	1.5	0.0	0.7	0.0
Number of respondents	**903**	**2,948**	**568**	**1,205**	**659**	**1,743**

Note: All Ns are unweighted. [1]Includes ganja, charas, brown sugar, cocaine, bhang, etc.

11.2 General and sexual and reproductive health problems

General health problems about which youth were questioned included high fever and injury. Sexual and reproductive health problems included symptoms of genital infection (burning during urination, genital ulcers, itching, and swelling in the groin, genital discharge, for example), anxiety about nocturnal emission or *swapnadosh* (for young men) and menstrual problems (for young women). Findings related to recent experiences of various general, and sexual and reproductive health problems are presented in Table 11.2.

11.2.1 General health problems

Findings show that 26% of young men and 28% of young women had experienced high fever in the three months preceding the survey. We note the fact that the survey period covered the peak infection summer and monsoon months, which may partially explain the prevalence of high fever. While differences by marital status

were negligible among young men, somewhat more married than unmarried young women had experienced high fever. Rural-urban differences were negligible.

Injuries were experienced by a minority of respondents in the three months preceding the survey, specifically, 12% of young men and 2% of young women. Differences by marital status and rural-urban residence were narrow; however, somewhat more unmarried young men in rural than urban areas reported having experienced injuries (13% versus 7%).

11.2.2 Sexual and reproductive health problems

Table 11.2 presents young people's reported experiences of symptoms of genital infection in the three months preceding the survey. We note that these findings are based on self-reports and not on clinical examination or laboratory testing and therefore must be interpreted cautiously. Young women were more likely than young men to report these symptoms (22% versus 8%). This difference is largely attributed to the finding that young women's experience related, for the most part (17%) to vaginal discharge. Differences by marital status suggest that while married young men were slightly more likely than unmarried young men to have experienced

Table 11.2: Self-reported health problems

Percentage of youth reporting recent experiences of selected general and sexual and reproductive health problems, according to residence, Bihar, 2007

General/sexual and reproductive health problems experienced (%)	M 15–24	W 15–24	MM 15–29	MW 15–24	UM 15–24	UW 15–24
Combined						
High fever in last 3 months	25.6	28.3	24.2	30.8	25.6	23.7
Injury in last 3 months	11.7	2.2	9.1	2.1	11.9	2.6
Symptoms of genital infection in last 3 months[1]	8.3	21.6	10.6	25.8	7.0	13.9
Anxiety about *swapnadosh*/nocturnal emission in last 12 months	18.6	NA	10.9	NA	20.8	NA
Menstrual problems in last 3 months	NA	11.2	NA	12.3	NA	9.3
Number of respondents	**1,942**	**5,529**	**1,115**	**2,341**	**1,492**	**3,188**
Urban						
High fever in last 3 months	25.0	27.9	22.8	31.0	24.9	25.7
Injury in last 3 months	7.5	2.8	6.5	2.1	7.4	3.6
Symptoms of genital infection in last 3 months[1]	8.6	16.2	9.8	23.1	8.2	11.3
Anxiety about *swapnadosh*/nocturnal emission in last 12 months	18.6	NA	8.7	NA	19.7	NA
Menstrual problems in last 3 months	NA	8.9	NA	7.7	NA	9.9
Number of respondents	**1,039**	**2,581**	**547**	**1,136**	**833**	**1,445**
Rural						
High fever in last 3 months	25.7	28.4	24.2	30.7	25.7	23.3
Injury in last 3 months	12.3	2.1	9.4	2.0	12.8	2.4
Symptoms of genital infection in last 3 months[1]	8.2	22.3	10.8	26.0	6.8	14.3
Anxiety about *swapnadosh*/nocturnal emission in last 12 months	18.6	NA	11.1	NA	21.1	NA
Menstrual problems in last 3 months	NA	11.5	NA	12.6	NA	9.2
Number of respondents	**903**	**2,948**	**568**	**1,205**	**659**	**1,743**

Note: All Ns are unweighted. NA: Not applicable. [1]Includes genital ulcers, genital itching, swelling in the groin, discharge, burning during urination, etc.

symptoms of genital infection (11% and 7% respectively), married young women were considerably more likely than the unmarried to report as such (26% versus 14%). Rural-urban differences were not evident among young men; however among young women, somewhat more rural than urban young women reported symptoms of genital infection (22% versus 16%).

Previous research has documented the extent to which semen loss is associated with anxiety regarding masculine weakness and ill-health in South Asian cultures (Bhatia and Choudhary, 1998; Bhatia and Malik, 1991; Bhende, 1995; Collumbien et al., 2004; Khan et al., 2006; Pelto, 1999; Verma et al., 2003). Youth Study findings suggest that almost one-fifth of young men had indeed experienced anxiety about *swapnadosh* or nocturnal emission in the 12 months preceding the survey. Differences were observed by marital status: 11% of married men reported anxiety about nocturnal emission compared to 21% of unmarried young men. Differences by rural-urban residence were muted.

With regard to young women's experience of other reproductive health problems in the three months preceding the interview, findings suggest that 11% of young women experienced menstrual problems with little variation by marital status or rural-urban residence.

11.3 Mental health disorders

The mental health status of young people was assessed using their responses to the General Health Questionnaire (GHQ-12) (Goldberg, 1992; Patel and Andrew, 2001). This questionnaire, designed to detect possible mental disorders, is based on 12 questions that assess the respondent's general level of happiness, depression, anxiety and sleep disturbance in the one month preceding the interview. Threshold scores of 2, 3, 4 or more have been variously used to identify the possible presence of common mental disorders (Bashir et al., 1996; Donath, 2001; Jacob, Bhugra and Mann, 1997). Table 11.3 presents responses on each item of the GHQ-12, and a summary measure indicating the percentage who gave three or more responses suggestive of mental disorders.

Gender disparities in response patterns were evident. Young men reported responses suggestive of mental disorders on several more items than young women. Moreover, on most questions, larger percentages of young men than women indicated responses suggestive of mental disorders Among young men, 10% or more indicated responses suggestive of mental disorders to several questions: feeling that they were not playing a useful role (24%), feeling incapable of making decisions (19%), feeling constantly under strain (14%), losing sleep due to worry (14%), feeling unhappy and depressed (11%) and feeling incapable of overcoming their difficulties (10%). In contrast, questions that elicited responses suggestive of mental disorder by one-tenth or more of young women included feeling incapable of making decisions (20%), feeling incapable of overcoming their difficulties (13%) and feeling incapable of facing up to one's problems (10%).

Differences by marital status were more evident among young men than among young women. Married young men were more likely than unmarried young men to report that they lost sleep over worry (20% versus 14%) and felt constantly under strain (21% versus 13%). Conversely, unmarried young men were more likely than married young men to report that they felt that they were not playing a useful role (28% versus 11%) and felt incapable of making decisions (22% versus 12%). Differences were negligible among young women, except that somewhat more married than unmarried young women reported that they had been thinking themselves as a worthless person (9% versus 4%).

Table 11.3: Reported symptoms or behaviours suggestive of mental health disorders

Percentage of youth reporting symptoms or behaviours suggestive of mental health disorders experienced in the month preceding the interview, according to residence, Bihar, 2007

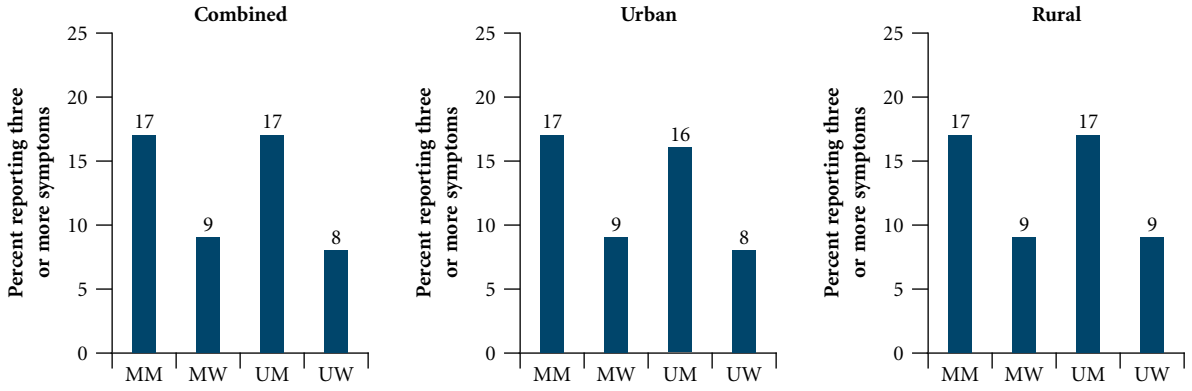
Symptoms/behaviours (%)	M 15–24	W 15–24	MM 15–29	MW 15–24	UM 15–24	UW 15–24
Combined						
Unable to concentrate on whatever he/she was doing	6.7	1.8	7.1	1.6	6.7	2.0
Lost much sleep over worry	13.6	6.7	20.3	7.9	13.5	4.5
Felt that he/she was not playing a useful role	23.5	3.6	10.7	3.2	27.9	4.4
Felt incapable of making decisions	19.2	19.9	11.7	20.9	21.6	18.3
Felt constantly under strain	13.8	6.9	20.5	7.6	12.7	5.7
Felt that he/she could not overcome his/her difficulties	10.1	12.8	8.7	12.2	10.7	14.3
Unable to enjoy normal day-to-day activities	5.3	2.0	5.4	2.1	5.7	1.7
Unable to face up to his/her problems	6.4	9.6	5.6	9.3	6.8	10.4
Been feeling unhappy and depressed	10.9	5.4	15.1	5.7	10.7	4.9
Been losing confidence in himself/herself	7.9	4.1	10.0	4.1	7.6	4.3
Been thinking of himself/herself as a worthless person	6.4	7.1	6.7	8.6	6.0	4.2
Not feeling reasonably happy, all things considered	3.7	3.0	4.4	3.2	3.8	2.6
Three or more symptoms/behaviours	**16.2**	**8.7**	**17.3**	**9.0**	**16.8**	**8.3**
Number of respondents	**1,942**	**5,529**	**1,115**	**2,341**	**1,492**	**3,188**
Urban						
Unable to concentrate on whatever he/she was doing	5.4	2.0	5.4	2.1	4.9	2.2
Lost much sleep over worry	13.6	6.1	20.7	7.0	12.7	5.5
Felt that he/she was not playing a useful role	24.4	2.7	9.8	2.8	25.8	2.8
Felt incapable of making decisions	16.5	16.3	7.6	18.3	17.6	15.2
Felt constantly under strain	16.8	7.8	24.7	8.5	15.6	7.3
Felt that he/she could not overcome his/her difficulties	10.0	10.4	9.8	10.6	9.8	10.1
Unable to enjoy normal day-to-day activities	3.6	2.0	4.3	2.8	3.3	1.8
Unable to face up to his/her problems	4.6	6.6	3.3	6.3	4.5	6.7
Been feeling unhappy and depressed	13.3	6.0	16.3	6.3	13.5	5.7
Been losing confidence in himself/herself	7.5	3.6	8.7	4.2	7.4	3.0
Been thinking of himself/herself as a worthless person	5.4	6.1	5.4	8.5	5.7	4.3
Not feeling reasonably happy, all things considered	5.0	2.4	7.5	2.8	4.9	2.0
Three or more symptoms/behaviours	**16.5**	**8.0**	**17.4**	**9.1**	**16.4**	**7.5**
Number of respondents	**1,039**	**2,581**	**547**	**1,136**	**833**	**1,445**
Rural						
Unable to concentrate on whatever he/she was doing	6.9	1.7	7.2	1.6	7.0	2.0
Lost much sleep over worry	13.6	6.8	20.2	8.0	13.6	4.3
Felt that he/she was not playing a useful role	23.4	3.7	10.7	3.3	28.4	4.7
Felt incapable of making decisions	19.7	20.4	12.1	21.1	22.4	18.9
Felt constantly under strain	13.3	6.8	20.1	7.5	12.2	5.4
Felt that he/she could not overcome his/her difficulties	10.1	13.2	8.6	12.3	10.8	15.1
Unable to enjoy normal day-to-day activities	5.6	1.9	5.4	2.0	6.1	1.7
Unable to face up to his/her problems	6.8	10.0	5.8	9.5	7.3	11.1
Been feeling unhappy and depressed	10.5	5.4	15.0	5.6	10.2	4.7
Been losing confidence in himself/herself	8.0	4.2	10.1	4.0	7.6	4.6
Been thinking of himself/herself as a worthless person	6.5	7.2	6.8	8.6	6.2	4.2
Not feeling reasonably happy, all things considered	3.4	3.1	4.1	3.3	3.6	2.7
Three or more symptoms/behaviours	**16.1**	**8.8**	**17.3**	**9.0**	**16.9**	**8.5**
Number of respondents	**903**	**2,948**	**568**	**1,205**	**659**	**1,743**

Note: All Ns are unweighted.

Rural-urban differences were narrow on most items, but some differences were observed. For example, married young men in urban areas were somewhat more likely than their rural counterparts to report that they felt constantly under strain (25% versus 20%). Similarly, unmarried young women in rural areas were somewhat more likely than their urban counterparts to report that they could not overcome their difficulties (15% versus 10%).

Overall, 16% of young men and 9% young women reported three or more of the 12 symptoms/behaviours probed in the GHQ-12, indicative of mental disorders. Differences by marital status and rural-urban residence were negligible.

Figure 11.1: Percentage of youth reporting symptoms/behaviours suggestive of mental health disorders in the month preceding the interview, according to residence, Bihar, 2007



11.4 Care and advice seeking

Young people who reported physical or sexual and reproductive health problems were probed about whether they had sought care or advice for the problem and the source of this care or advice. Findings are presented in Table 11.4 and suggest that care and advice seeking differed by kind of problem experienced as well as, in several instances, sex and marital status of the respondent. Young women were less likely than young men to seek care for both general and sexual and reproductive health problems.

11.4.1 General health problems

According to findings presented in Table 11.4, over 85% of young people experiencing high fever had sought treatment. Somewhat more young men than women reported having sought treatment (92% versus 87%). Differences by marital status were negligible. Treatment was sought from a government health care facility or provider by a relatively small percentage of those who sought care: 14% of young men and 9% of young women. The majority of respondents reportedly sought care from private sector providers (66% of young men and 54% of young women), reflecting the pattern in health care seeking behaviour in India more generally. One-fifth of young men (21%) and almost two-fifths of young women (38%) sought treatment for high fever from sources other than government and private facilities or doctors, such as, for example, traditional health care providers or home remedies. Differences by marital status were modest; even so somewhat more unmarried than married young men sought care from private sector providers (64% versus 58%).

Table 11.4: Care and advice seeking for reported health problems

Percentage of youth who experienced selected health problems by reported care and advice seeking and place of treatment, Bihar, 2007

Care and advice seeking (%)	M 15–24	W 15–24	MM 15–29	MW 15–24	UM 15–24	UW 15–24
Sought treatment for high fever	92.4	86.7	93.0	86.9	93.2	85.8
Number reporting high fever	**490**	**1,506**	**266**	**728**	**376**	**778**
Place treatment sought for high fever[1]						
Government facility/doctor	13.6	8.6	16.5	8.0	14.0	9.9
Private facility/doctor	65.7	53.7	58.0	52.6	63.8	55.6
Other[2]	20.7	37.5	24.7	39.1	22.2	34.5
Number who sought treatment for high fever	**447**	**1,323**	**242**	**638**	**343**	**685**
Sought treatment for injury	67.7	45.1	70.3	(41.5)	66.7	50.6
Number reporting injury	**191**	**144**	**85**	**49**	**150**	**95**
Place treatment sought for injury[1]						
Government facility/doctor	14.2	14.9	14.1	(13.3)	16.8	18.6
Private facility/doctor	47.1	43.2	49.3	(33.3)	49.6	60.5
Other[2]	38.7	20.3	36.6	(20.0)	33.6	18.6
Number who sought treatment for injury	**133**	**82**	**62**	**26**	**103**	**56**
Sought treatment for symptoms of genital infection[3]	50.3	25.6	60.2	27.1	46.7	19.5
Number reporting symptoms of genital infection	**167**	**992**	**113**	**575**	**115**	**417**
Place treatment sought for symptoms of genital infection[1, 3, 4]						
Government facility/doctor	22.0	12.8	22.5	12.8	12.2	11.6
Private facility/doctor	53.7	62.0	29.6	64.6	67.3	48.8
Other[2]	25.3	25.2	47.9	22.6	20.4	39.5
Number who sought treatment for symptoms of genital infection	**84**	**272**	**63**	**186**	**56**	**86**
Sought advice on *swapnadosh*/nocturnal emission	35.9	NA	32.8	NA	36.9	NA
Number reporting anxiety over *swapnadosh*/nocturnal emission	**364**	**NA**	**113**	**NA**	**309**	**NA**
Person from whom advice was sought on *swapnadosh*/ nocturnal emission						
Friend	64.1	NA	(60.0)	NA	66.4	NA
Parent	6.1	NA	(0.0)	NA	6.2	NA
Relative	2.3	NA	(10.0)	NA	0.0	NA
Traditional healer	1.5	NA	(0.0)	NA	1.8	NA
Medical professional	24.4	NA	(15.0)	NA	25.7	NA
Number who sought advice for *swapnadosh*/nocturnal emission	**137**	**NA**	**41**	**NA**	**118**	**NA**
Sought treatment for menstrual problems	NA	35.6	NA	39.5	NA	24.8
Number reporting menstrual problems	**NA**	**540**	**NA**	**236**	**NA**	**304**
Place treatment sought for menstrual problems[1]						
Government facility/doctor	NA	7.5	NA	6.8	NA	7.8
Private facility/doctor	NA	62.6	NA	63.2	NA	58.4
Other[2]	NA	26.9	NA	26.5	NA	29.9
Number who sought treatment for menstrual problems	**NA**	**203**	**NA**	**104**	**NA**	**99**

Note: All Ns are unweighted. Column totals may not equal 100% due to missing cases or "don't know" responses. ( ) Based on 25–49 unweighted cases. NA: Not applicable. [1]Refers to the last time the respondent sought treatment. [2]Includes registered medical practitioner, unregistered medical practitioner, vaid/traditional healer and home remedies. [3]Includes genital ulcers, genital itching, swelling in the groin, genital discharge, burning during urination, etc. [4]Multiple responses were given.

Fewer youth had sought care for their reported injuries (68% of young men and 45% of young women). Larger percentages of unmarried than married young women sought care for injuries (51% versus 42%); no such difference was observed among young men. Among young men and women who sought treatment, largest proportions sought treatment from private facilities or providers (47% and 43% of young men and women, respectively), followed by other sources, including traditional health care providers and home remedies (39% and 20%, respectively). Differences by marital status were negligible, except that more unmarried than married young women reported that they sought care from private sector facilities (61% versus 33%). We note that respondents may not always have been able to discern the extent to which the private sector provider from whom they sought care was indeed trained and licensed to provide such care.

11.4.2 Sexual and reproductive health problems

Responses regarding treatment seeking for sexual and reproductive health problems depict a somewhat different picture than that for general health ailments. In general, fewer young people had sought care for these problems than for general health problems. As in the case of general health problems, however, the majority who sought care did so from a private sector provider.

Of those young men who experienced symptoms of genital infection, 50% had sought care. The married were considerably more likely than the unmarried to have sought treatment for symptoms of genital infection (60% versus 47%). Of those who sought care, over half did so from a private sector provider (54%), and one-quarter relied on traditional health care providers or home remedies (25%). The married were more likely than the unmarried to rely on government facilities (23% versus 12%) and others, including traditional health care providers and home remedies (48% versus 20%) and less likely to seek care from private facilities (30% versus 67%).

Young men who experienced anxiety about *swapnadosh* or nocturnal emission were asked if they had sought advice for this anxiety. Over one-third of all young men (36%) had done so. The most common source was friends, from whom 64% of young men reported seeking advice. One-quarter sought advice from a medical professional (24%); very few reported that they had sought advice from a traditional health care provider generally known to "treat" such symptoms (2%). While the unmarried were more likely than the married to have sought advice from friends (66% versus 60%) or parents (6% versus 0%) or medical professionals (26% versus 15%), the married were more likely to have sought advice from others, specifically relatives (10% versus 0%).

Seeking treatment for sexual and reproductive health problems was even more limited among young women than young men. For example, 36% of women experiencing menstrual problems had sought care for this problem, as did 26% of those who had experienced symptoms of genital infection. That even fewer young women had sought care for symptoms of genital infection than menstrual problems clearly highlights the fact that problems perceived to be associated with sex or sexual health matters were likely to go untreated by many. The married were considerably more likely than the unmarried to have sought treatment for symptoms of genital infection (27% versus 20%) and menstrual problems (40% versus 25%), a finding attributable perhaps to the greater embarrassment that sexual and reproductive conditions may evoke among unmarried and their families than their married counterparts.

As in the case of general health problems, care was most likely to be sought from a private sector provider: 62–63% of those seeking care for symptoms of genital infection and menstrual problems. Considerable proportions (25–27%) relied on traditional health care providers or home remedies for these problems. Larger percentages of married than unmarried young women relied on private sector providers for both

problems, particularly for treating symptoms of genital infection (65% versus 49%) and conversely, more unmarried than married young women relied on traditional providers or home remedies (40% versus 23% for symptoms of infections, for example).

11.5 Hesitation to access contraceptive supplies

In order to capture the extent to which young people perceived that they could approach health care professionals for sexual and reproductive health services, the Youth Study posed two questions relating to accessing contraceptives, namely, whether the respondent would feel shy to approach a health care provider and a pharmacist, respectively, for contraceptives. Findings are presented in Table 11.5 and confirm that substantial proportions of young people would indeed feel shy to approach a health care provider or pharmacy/medical shop for contraceptive supplies. Young men were somewhat less likely than young women to report discomfort in approaching a health care provider (40% versus 45%) and considerably less likely to report discomfort in approaching a pharmacy or medical shop (37% versus 53%).

Marital status differences suggest that the unmarried were more likely than the married to report discomfort in approaching a health care provider (43% versus 25% among young men and 51% versus 42% among young women) and a pharmacy or medical shop (41% versus 22% among young men and 58% versus 51% among young women). Likewise, urban respondents were much less likely than rural respondents to feel hesitation in these circumstances. Findings confirm that many youth would indeed find it difficult to seek appropriate care for sexual and reproductive matters.

Table 11.5: Hesitation to access contraceptive supplies

Percentage of youth reporting hesitation to access contraceptive supplies from a health care provider or medical shop, according to residence, Bihar, 2007

Indicators (%)	M 15–24	W 15–24	MM 15–29	MW 15–24	UM 15–24	UW 15–24
Combined						
Would feel shy to approach an HCP for contraceptives	39.7	44.6	24.8	41.7	43.4	50.8
Would feel shy to approach a pharmacy/medical shop for contraceptives	36.9	53.4	22.2	51.4	40.8	57.7
Number of respondents	**1,942**	**5,529**	**1,115**	**2,341**	**1,492**	**3,188**
Urban						
Would feel shy to approach an HCP for contraceptives	34.4	34.7	22.8	31.5	35.2	37.0
Would feel shy to approach a pharmacy/medical shop for contraceptives	31.9	46.2	18.3	44.4	32.8	47.6
Number of respondents	**1,039**	**2,581**	**547**	**1,136**	**833**	**1,445**
Rural						
Would feel shy to approach an HCP for contraceptives	40.6	45.9	24.9	42.4	45.0	53.3
Would feel shy to approach a pharmacy/medical shop for contraceptives	37.7	54.3	22.5	51.9	42.4	59.5
Number of respondents	**903**	**2,948**	**568**	**1,205**	**659**	**1,743**

Note: All Ns are unweighted. HCP: Health care provider.

11.6 Attitudes towards pre-marital HIV testing and extent of HIV testing

Youth who were aware of HIV/AIDS were asked whether they approved of pre-marital HIV testing for boys and girls, and whether they had ever undergone an HIV test. Findings, presented in Table 11.6, suggest that the large majority of youth agreed that boys and girls should be tested for HIV before marriage. More young men than women reported as such (82–84% versus 71–75%). While differences by marital status were narrow among young men, somewhat more unmarried than married young women expressed favourable attitudes towards HIV testing (75–78% versus 68–72%). Likewise, while differences by place of residence were muted among young men, more urban than rural young women reported that boys and girls should be tested for HIV before marriage (83–85% versus 69–72%).

Table 11.6: Attitudes towards pre-marital HIV testing and extent of HIV testing

Percentage of youth aware of HIV/AIDS who believe that boys/girls should be tested for HIV before marriage and percentage who have ever had an HIV test, according to residence, Bihar, 2007

Attitudes/experiences (%)	M 15–24	W 15–24	MM 15–29	MW 15–24	UM 15–24	UW 15–24
Combined						
Boys should be tested for HIV before marriage						
Yes	83.8	74.6	83.7	72.0	83.9	77.5
No	9.3	17.1	10.6	20.4	8.6	13.0
Girls should be tested for HIV before marriage						
Yes	82.1	71.3	80.9	68.4	82.4	74.5
No	10.0	20.4	12.6	23.8	9.3	16.2
Youth who underwent an HIV test	1.3	1.6	5.2	2.3	1.3	0.4
Number aware of HIV/AIDS	**1,768**	**3,334**	**1,004**	**1,299**	**1,366**	**2,035**
Urban						
Boys should be tested for HIV before marriage						
Yes	85.8	85.0	84.1	83.0	85.1	86.3
No	9.0	9.7	10.2	12.0	9.4	8.1
Girls should be tested for HIV before marriage						
Yes	84.3	83.1	81.8	79.2	83.9	85.3
No	9.7	11.5	12.5	15.8	9.7	9.0
Youth who underwent an HIV test	2.6	2.0	6.9	5.0	2.1	0.2
Number aware of HIV/AIDS	**993**	**2,032**	**519**	**805**	**799**	**1,227**
Rural						
Boys should be tested for HIV before marriage						
Yes	83.5	72.2	83.7	70.8	83.7	74.6
No	9.4	18.9	10.6	21.3	8.4	14.6
Girls should be tested for HIV before marriage						
Yes	81.8	68.5	80.8	67.0	82.1	70.9
No	10.1	22.6	12.6	24.8	9.2	18.6
Youth who underwent an HIV test	1.1	1.5	4.9	2.0	1.1	0.5
Number aware of HIV/AIDS	**775**	**1,302**	**485**	**494**	**567**	**808**

Note: All Ns are unweighted. Column totals may not equal 100% due to missing cases or "don't know" responses.

Despite favourable attitudes towards HIV testing, only a small minority of youth had ever undergone an HIV test: 1% of young men and 2% of young women. Differences by marital status and rural-urban residence were negligible. Even so, of all the categories of young people, it was married young men who were most likely to have undergone an HIV test (5%).

11.7 Summary

Findings show that substantial proportions of young men reported the consumption of tobacco and alcohol; two-fifths of young men reported tobacco consumption and one-sixth reported alcohol consumption. Drug use was reported by less than 2%. As expected, few young women reported that they consumed any of these substances.

Although youth is a generally healthy period of life, significant minorities reported experiencing general, mental, and sexual and reproductive health problems in the period preceding the interview. For example, 26% of young men and 28% of young women had experienced high fever, and 8% of young men and 22% of young women reported the experience of symptoms of genital infection. Moreover, 11% of young women reported menstrual problems and one-fifth of young men reported anxiety about nocturnal emission. Finally, responses indicative of mental disorders were reported by some 16% of young men and 9% of young women.

As far as care seeking for general and sexual and reproductive health problems was concerned, patterns varied by type of problem. While the large majority of those experiencing high fever, for example, sought care, many fewer sought care for sexual and reproductive health problems. Of those who sought treatment, the majority sought advice or treatment from a private facility or provider, irrespective of the type of problem. However, it is notable that one-quarter of youth who sought care for genital infections or menstrual problems used home remedies or the services of traditional or untrained providers. In the case of anxiety about nocturnal emission, moreover, the majority of young men preferred to seek advice from peers.

Findings suggest that youth were uncomfortable about seeking sexual and reproductive health services. For example, many youth would indeed find it difficult to approach a health care provider or a pharmacy/medical shop for contraceptives.

Finally, small minorities (1–2%) reported that they had undergone HIV testing. Youth were, however, overwhelmingly in favour of pre-marital HIV testing.

Chapter 12

Participation in civil society and political life

The National Youth Policy 2003 has underscored the role of India's youth in political decision-making and argued for greater representation of youth in appropriate bodies and more extensive youth participation in the design and implementation of programmes (Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, 2003). Indeed, there is a recognition that today's youth, who have better access to skills and information than those of earlier generations, can play an important role in influencing political processes and the socio-economic development of the country.

This chapter presents a profile of youth involvement in government- and NGO-sponsored programmes, community activities and political processes. It also explores young people's behaviours and attitudes towards individuals of different religions and caste groups, violence within their community and their own participation in such violence, and their perceptions about the most important problem facing youth in India.

12.1 Awareness of and participation in government- and NGO-sponsored programmes

Youth were asked whether they were aware of programmes that had taken place in their village or urban neighbourhood in the three years preceding the interview, whether they had participated in these programmes and whether these programmes had been organised by government agencies or NGOs. Findings are presented in Table 12.1.

Awareness of programmes that addressed youth needs was extremely limited; just 15% of young men and 8% of young women reported awareness of one or more programmes that addressed youth needs organised in the three years prior to interview (see also Figure 12.1). Differences by marital status and rural-urban residence were negligible. No differences in the level of awareness were evident by the focus of programmes conducted.

Over three-fifths of young men (63%) and almost three-quarters (72%) of young women who were familiar with programmes reported that these were organised by government agencies. Moreover, 25% of young men and 8% of young women also reported awareness of programmes organised by the NGO sector. One-fifth of young women reported that they were unsure about the agency that organised these programmes. While somewhat more married than unmarried young men reported awareness of government-sponsored programmes (69% versus 61%), the reverse was true for young women (67% of the married compared to 79% of the unmarried). Urban youth were far more likely than rural youth to report awareness of NGO-sponsored programmes (43% and 23% of young men in urban and rural areas, respectively; 14% and 7% of young women, respectively). Conversely, somewhat more rural than urban young men (but not women) reported awareness of programmes sponsored by government (64% versus 58%).

Table 12.1: Awareness of and participation in government-and NGO-sponsored programmes

Percentage of youth reporting awareness of and participation in government- and NGO-sponsored programmes conducted in the village/neighbourhood in the three years preceding the interview, according to residence, Bihar, 2007

Awareness of and participation in programmes (%)	M 15–24	W 15–24	MM 15–29	MW 15–24	UM 15–24	UW 15–24
Combined						
Aware of programme(s) held	14.7	7.5	13.2	7.0	14.9	8.6
Focus of programmes held						
Health promotion	3.1	1.4	2.4	1.3	3.2	1.7
Awareness/leadership/vocational/life skills	3.3	2.1	2.7	2.3	3.6	1.9
Employment[1]	3.0	0.3	4.1	0.2	2.1	0.4
Self-help group	0.5	0.7	0.3	0.9	0.6	0.4
Literacy	4.4	3.7	3.8	3.3	4.5	4.5
Sports and recreation	3.3	0.4	2.2	0.2	3.4	0.6
Number of respondents	**1,942**	**5,529**	**1,115**	**2,341**	**1,492**	**3,188**
Organising agency						
Government	63.3	71.6	69.4	67.1	60.5	78.8
NGO	25.3	7.5	19.7	6.1	25.4	9.2
Don't know	6.9	20.7	4.1	26.8	9.4	12.1
Number aware of any programme(s)	**263**	**407**	**136**	**129**	**207**	**278**
Participated in programme(s) held	7.2	1.9	6.8	1.6	6.9	2.4
Number of respondents	**1,942**	**5,529**	**1,115**	**2,341**	**1,492**	**3,188**
Participation in specific programmes						
Health promotion	16.1	10.5	6.7	(10.5)	20.4	10.5
Awareness/leadership/vocational/life skills	27.3	38.5	17.3	(43.6)	30.1	32.9
Employment[1]	16.2	4.8	32.9	(5.3)	7.8	2.7
Self-help group	2.8	4.8	0.0	(5.3)	4.9	3.9
Literacy	16.8	41.3	25.0	(42.1)	17.5	41.3
Sports and recreation	32.4	5.7	22.4	(0.0)	34.0	12.0
Number who participated in any programme(s)	**125**	**112**	**65**	**31**	**94**	**81**
Urban						
Aware of programme(s) held	12.5	6.8	10.9	3.5	13.1	9.1
Focus of programmes held						
Health promotion	5.0	1.6	3.3	1.4	5.3	1.8
Awareness/leadership/vocational/life skills	4.7	1.6	3.3	0.7	5.3	2.2
Employment[1]	1.8	0.5	2.2	0.0	1.6	0.6
Self-help group	0.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.4	0.0
Literacy	2.9	3.1	2.2	2.1	2.9	4.0
Sports and recreation	3.2	0.5	2.2	0.0	3.3	0.8
Number of respondents	**1,039**	**2,581**	**547**	**1,136**	**833**	**1,445**
Organising agency						
Government	58.3	74.4	60.0	(80.0)	57.6	75.0
NGO	42.9	13.6	33.3	(0.0)	43.8	15.6
Don't know	2.9	11.6	10.0	(20.0)	3.1	11.1

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Table 12.1: (Cont'd)

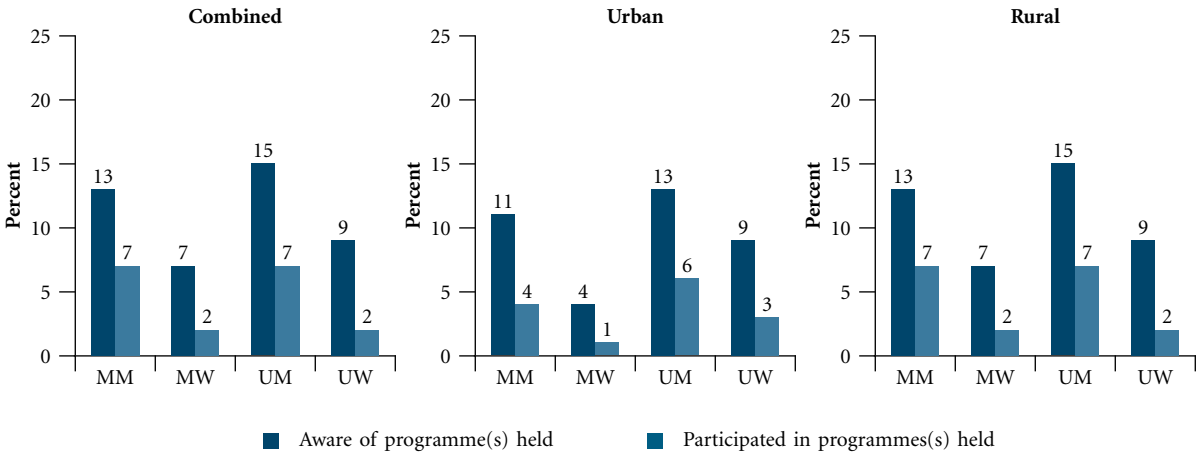
Awareness of and participation in programmes (%)	M 15–24	W 15–24	MM 15–29	MW 15–24	UM 15–24	UW 15–24
Urban						
Number aware of any programme(s)	**128**	**174**	**58**	**42**	**108**	**132**
Participated in programme(s) held	6.1	2.0	4.3	0.7	6.1	2.8
Number of respondents	**1,039**	**2,581**	**547**	**1,136**	**833**	**1,445**
Participation in specific programmes						
Health promotion	35.3	7.7	(50.0)	*	40.0	(7.1)
Awareness/leadership/vocational/life skills	41.2	30.8	(50.0)	*	40.0	(28.6)
Employment[1]	11.8	7.7	(25.0)	*	12.5	(7.1)
Self-help group	0.0	0.0	(0.0)	*	0.0	(0.0)
Literacy	17.6	46.2	(25.0)	*	20.0	(40.0)
Sports and recreation	23.5	7.7	(0.0)	*	20.0	(13.3)
Number who participated in any programme(s)	**60**	**53**	**25**	**11**	**50**	**42**
Rural						
Aware of programme(s) held	15.1	7.6	13.4	7.2	15.3	8.5
Focus of programmes held						
Health promotion	2.8	1.4	2.3	1.3	2.6	1.7
Awareness/leadership/vocational/life skills	3.1	2.2	2.6	2.4	3.3	1.8
Employment[1]	3.1	0.2	4.3	0.2	2.2	0.3
Self-help group	0.5	0.8	0.3	1.0	0.6	0.5
Literacy	4.6	3.8	3.9	3.5	4.8	4.6
Sports and recreation	3.3	0.3	2.3	0.2	3.4	0.6
Number of respondents	**903**	**2,948**	**568**	**1,205**	**659**	**1,743**
Organising agency						
Government	64.0	71.2	70.1	67.1	60.7	79.5
NGO	22.8	7.0	18.8	6.3	22.0	7.9
Don't know	7.5	21.8	3.6	27.2	10.5	12.7
Number aware of any programme(s)	**135**	**233**	**78**	**87**	**99**	**146**
Participated in programme(s) held	7.5	1.9	6.9	1.7	7.1	2.3
Number of respondents	**903**	**2,948**	**568**	**1,205**	**659**	**1,743**
Participation in specific programmes						
Health promotion	13.5	10.9	(5.6)	*	(18.2)	(11.3)
Awareness/leadership/vocational/life skills	25.4	39.6	(16.7)	*	(28.4)	(32.8)
Employment[1]	16.8	4.4	(33.3)	*	(6.8)	(1.6)
Self-help group	3.2	5.5	(0.0)	*	(4.6)	(4.9)
Literacy	16.7	40.7	(25.4)	*	(17.2)	(41.0)
Sports and recreation	34.1	4.4	(22.5)	*	(36.4)	(12.9)
Number who participated in any programme(s)	**65**	**59**	**40**	**20**	**44**	**39**

*Note: All Ns are unweighted. ( ) Based on 25–49 unweighted cases. *Percentage not shown, based on fewer than 25 unweighted cases. Column totals may exceed 100% due to multiple responses. [1]Includes Employment Guarantee Scheme (EGS), Jawahar Rozgar Yojana (JRY), National Rural Employment Programme (NREP), Pradhan Mantri Rozgar Yojana (PMRY), Training for Rural Youth for Self Employment (TRYSEM), etc.*

A small minority of youth reported participation in a programme in the preceding three years—7% of young men and 2% of young women. Differences by marital status and rural-urban residence were negligible. Programmes in which youth participated differed between young men and women. Among young men who reported participation in any programme, the largest percentage participated in sports and recreation activities (32%), followed by leadership and life skills programmes (27%). One in six young men each reported participation in programmes that focus on health promotion, employment and literacy. In contrast, leading programmes in which young women participated included those that focus on literacy (41%), leadership and life skills (39%) and health promotion (11%). Patterns differed between the married and the unmarried. While the programme in which the largest percentage of married young men participated was employment related programmes, it was sports and recreation programmes among the unmarried. Moreover, findings show that the unmarried were more likely than the married to report participation in programmes that focus on health promotion (20% versus 7%), leadership and life skills (30% versus 17%) and sports and recreation (34% versus 22%) and less likely to participate in programmes that focus on employment (8% versus 33%) and literacy (18% versus 25%). Among young women, the unmarried were more likely than the married to participate in sports and recreation activities (12% versus 0%). Conversely, they were less likely to participate in leadership and life skills programmes (33% versus 44%).

Rural-urban differences were notable and varied across young men and women. Among young men, those in urban areas were more likely than their rural counterparts to report participation in health promotion (35% versus 14%) and leadership and life skills development programmes (41% versus 25%) and less likely to report participation in employment programmes (12% versus 17%) and sports and recreation activities (24% versus 34%). Among young women, those in rural areas were more likely than urban women to report participation in leadership and life skills programmes (40% versus 31%) and self-help group activities (6% versus 0%). They were somewhat less likely, however, than their urban counterparts to have participated in literacy programmes (41% versus 46%).

Figure 12.1: Percentage of youth reporting awareness of and participation in government- and NGO-sponsored programmes in the three years preceding the interview, according to residence, Bihar, 2007



12.2 Participation in community- or *panchayat*-sponsored programmes

In many villages and urban neighbourhoods, community-led activities include, for example, cleanliness drives, health promotion activities, celebration of festivals and national days, and so on. As part of the Youth Study, youth were asked whether they had participated in any community-led activities organised by the *panchayat*/community leaders in the 12 months prior to interview. Findings, reported in Table 12.2, suggest that youth participation in these activities was limited and that young women were far less likely than young men to have participated in these activities. Almost one-quarter of young men, compared to 4% of young women, reported having participated in a community-led programme in the last year. Participation was more likely to be reported by unmarried than married youth (24% versus 17% among young men and 7% versus 2% among young women). Rural-urban differences were negligible.

Table 12.2: Participation in community-led programmes

Percentage of youth who attended community-led programmes in the village/urban neighbourhood and types of programmes attended in the 12 months preceding the interview, according to residence, Bihar, 2007

Participation in community-led programmes (%)	M 15–24	W 15–24	MM 15–29	MW 15–24	UM 15–24	UW 15–24
Combined						
Attended any programme(s) organised	22.6	3.9	17.1	2.1	24.2	7.4
Number of respondents	**1,942**	**5,529**	**1,115**	**2,341**	**1,492**	**3,188**
Specific programmes attended						
Cleanliness/sanitation	8.3	6.0	11.5	(8.0)	6.6	5.5
Health promotion	2.7	3.2	2.6	(4.0)	3.6	3.0
Festival celebration	42.6	43.1	60.4	(60.0)	38.8	34.6
National day celebration	69.5	64.7	53.9	(52.0)	74.8	71.6
Number who attended above programmes	**446**	**259**	**179**	**41**	**369**	**218**
Urban						
Attended any programme(s) organised	23.7	4.1	15.2	1.4	24.9	6.1
Number of respondents	**1,039**	**2,581**	**547**	**1,136**	**833**	**1,445**
Specific programmes attended						
Cleanliness/sanitation	10.6	3.8	14.3	*	9.8	6.7
Health promotion	4.5	3.8	7.1	*	4.9	3.3
Festival celebration	40.9	34.6	57.1	*	37.7	26.7
National day celebration	74.2	61.5	50.0	*	77.0	73.3
Number who attended above programmes	**243**	**102**	**82**	**14**	**209**	**88**
Rural						
Attended any programme(s) organised	22.4	3.9	17.3	2.2	24.1	7.6
Number of respondents	**903**	**2,948**	**568**	**1,205**	**659**	**1,743**
Specific programmes attended						
Cleanliness/sanitation	7.9	6.2	11.3	(8.3)	6.0	5.3
Health promotion	2.6	3.1	2.2	(4.2)	3.3	2.9
Festival celebration	43.0	44.0	60.5	(58.3)	39.0	35.6
National day celebration	68.7	65.1	53.9	(54.2)	74.3	71.4
Number who attended above programmes	**203**	**157**	**97**	**27**	**160**	**130**

*Note: All Ns are unweighted. ( ) Based on 25–49 unweighted cases. *Percentage not shown, based on fewer than 25 unweighted cases. Column totals may exceed 100% due to multiple responses.*

Findings suggest that among those who participated in community led programmes, the activity in which the largest percentage of youth participated was celebration of national days (70% of young men and 65% of young women), followed by celebration of festivals (43%). More married than unmarried youth participated in celebrations of festivals (60% versus 39% among young men and 60% versus 35% among young women). In contrast, more unmarried than married youth participated in celebrations of national days (75% versus 54% among young men and 72% versus 52% among young women). Hardly any young people participated, in community cleanliness or sanitation activities or health promotion activities (2–8%).

12.3 Membership in organised groups

Youth were asked whether they belonged to any organised group, ranging from self-help groups to youth groups to sports and social clubs. Findings, reported in Table 12.3, suggest that relatively small proportions of youth were members of any group. Young men were somewhat more likely than young women to report such membership (8% compared to 2%). Marital status differences and rural-urban differences were narrow. The types of groups in which youth reported membership did not differ by marital status or residence of the respondent; however, while young men were most likely to report membership in a sports club or social group (6%), percentages reporting membership did not exceed 1% among young women, irrespective of the type of group.

Among married young men who reported group membership, over four-fifths (82%) had become members prior to marriage, including 84% in rural areas and 71% in urban areas. The opposite was true among married young women, of whom 67% had joined an organised group after marriage, confirming the limited duration of exposure, prior to marriage, of young women to organised groups.

Table 12.3: Membership in organised groups

Percentage of youth reporting membership in organised groups, according to residence, Bihar, 2007

Membership in organised groups (%)	M 15–24	W 15–24	MM 15–29	MW 15–24	UM 15–24	UW 15–24
Combined						
Member of an organised group	**8.2**	**1.5**	**5.4**	**1.4**	**9.2**	**1.6**
Self-help group	0.4	0.1	0.7	0.1	0.3	0.0
Mahila mandal	NA	0.7	NA	0.9	NA	0.1
Social or sports club	6.1	0.4	3.5	0.2	7.0	0.8
Youth group/*yuva/tarun/kishor/kishori mandal*	1.6	0.4	1.2	0.3	1.7	0.6
Other	0.3	0.0	0.2	0.0	0.3	0.1
Number of respondents	**1,942**	**5,529**	**1,115**	**2,341**	**1,492**	**3,188**
Became member of an organised group[1]						
Before marriage	NA	NA	82.3	(33.3)	NA	NA
After marriage	NA	NA	17.7	(66.7)	NA	NA
Number reporting membership in an organised group	**NA**	**NA**	**73**	**36**	**NA**	**NA**
Urban						
Member of an organised group	**7.9**	**2.5**	**7.6**	**1.4**	**8.2**	**3.2**
Self-help group	0.7	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.4	0.2
Mahila mandal	NA	0.3	NA	0.7	NA	0.2

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Table 12.3: (Cont'd)

Membership in organised groups (%)	M 15–24	W 15–24	MM 15–29	MW 15–24	UM 15–24	UW 15–24
Urban						
Social or sports club	5.0	1.6	4.3	0.7	5.3	2.0
Youth group/*yuva/tarun/kishor/kishori mandal*	1.8	0.5	2.2	0.0	1.6	0.8
Other	0.4	0.2	1.1	0.0	0.4	0.2
Number of respondents	**1,039**	**2,581**	**547**	**1,136**	**833**	**1,445**
Became member of an organised group[1]						
Before marriage	NA	NA	(71.4)	*	NA	NA
After marriage	NA	NA	(28.6)	*	NA	NA
Number reporting membership in an organised group	**NA**	**NA**	**43**	**18**	**NA**	**NA**
Rural						
Member of an organised group	**8.2**	**1.3**	**5.2**	**1.4**	**9.4**	**1.3**
Self-help group	0.4	0.1	0.8	0.1	0.3	0.0
Mahila mandal	NA	0.7	NA	1.0	NA	0.1
Social or sports club	6.2	0.3	3.4	0.1	7.2	0.6
Youth group/*yuva/tarun/kishor/kishori mandal*	1.6	0.4	1.1	0.3	1.7	0.6
Other	0.2	0.0	0.2	0.0	0.3	0.1
Number of respondents	**903**	**2,948**	**568**	**1,205**	**659**	**1,743**
Became member of an organised group[1]						
Before marriage	NA	NA	(83.6)	*	NA	NA
After marriage	NA	NA	(16.4)	*	NA	NA
Number reporting membership in an organised group	**NA**	**NA**	**30**	**18**	**NA**	**NA**

*Note: All Ns are unweighted. ( ) Based on 25–49 unweighted cases. *Percentage not shown, based on fewer than 25 unweighted cases. NA: Not applicable. [1]Column total may not equal 100% due to missing cases.*

12.4 Perceptions about action taken by rural *panchayats* in addressing defiance of social norms

In the course of pre-survey qualitative investigations, researchers noted that in several rural areas, village *panchayats* took action in various situations in which youth did not adhere to social norms. Hence, youth in the rural areas were asked whether they believed that *panchayats* in their villages had ever taken action if someone was reported to have teased a girl or woman, if parents refused to permit their sons or daughters to marry someone of their choice, if youth were found to have engaged in pre- or extra-marital sex or if an unmarried girl became pregnant. Responses are reported in Table 12.4.

Considerable proportions of youth perceived that their village *panchayats* would punish those accused of teasing a girl or woman (58% and 49% of young men and women, respectively) and would fine youth who had engaged in pre- or extra-marital sex (36% and 39% of young men and women, respectively). They were far less likely to report that the local *panchayat* would arrange the marriage of youth whose parents had refused to permit them to marry someone of their choice (21% and 25%, respectively). One in ten young men and one in seven young women reported that the *panchayat* had ever forced a boy to marry a girl whom he made pregnant. As seen above, gender and marital status differences were typically modest.

Table 12.4: Perceptions about actions taken by the *panchayat* in case of defiance of social norms

Percent distribution of youth by perceptions about actions taken by the *panchayat* in case of defiance of social norms in selected situations, Bihar (rural), 2007

Perceptions (%)	M 15–24	W 15–24	MM 15–29	MW 15–24	UM 15–24	UW 15–24
***Panchayat* would punish anyone who teases a girl/woman**						
Yes	57.8	49.0	59.6	47.3	56.4	52.6
No	33.0	32.9	34.6	32.6	32.6	33.7
Can't say	9.2	18.1	5.8	20.1	11.0	13.7
***Panchayat* would fine a boy/girl who had engaged in pre-/extra-marital sexual relations**						
Yes	36.3	38.7	33.3	39.2	36.9	37.7
No	47.1	33.9	53.0	32.4	45.5	37.2
Can't say	16.6	27.4	13.7	28.4	17.6	25.2
***Panchayat* would arrange the marriage of youth if parents refused to let them marry**						
Yes	20.6	24.8	19.3	24.1	20.6	26.2
No	64.6	57.1	69.0	55.8	63.6	59.8
Can't say	14.8	18.1	11.7	20.1	15.8	14.0
***Panchayat* had ever forced a boy to marry a girl who he had made pregnant**						
Yes	10.5	15.0	11.1	14.6	10.3	15.9
No	64.5	47.1	70.6	45.9	63.1	49.8
Can't say	25.0	37.8	18.3	39.5	26.7	34.4
Number of respondents	**903**	**2,948**	**568**	**1,205**	**659**	**1,743**

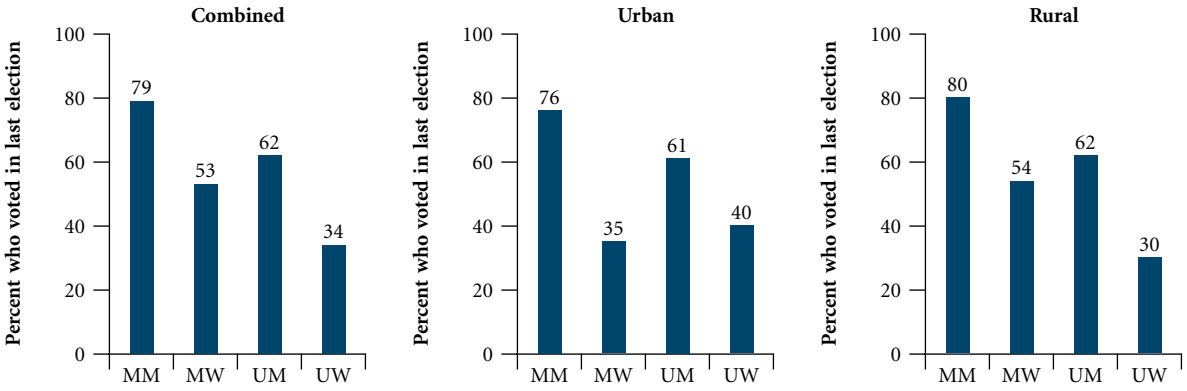
Note: All Ns are unweighted. Column totals may not equal 100% due to missing cases. Questions were asked only of respondents in rural areas.

12.5 Voting behaviour and perceptions of political matters

Table 12.5 presents the percentage of eligible youth—that is, those at least 20 years of age at the time of interview who would have been eligible to vote prior to interview—who voted in the last election. Findings suggest that voting behaviour was far from universal and varied considerably by sex, marital status and rural-urban residence (see also Figure 12.2). Larger proportions of eligible young men (65%) than women (51%) and larger proportions of married than unmarried youth reported that they had voted in the last election held. Specifically, 79% of eligible married young men reported that they had voted in the last election, compared to 62% of unmarried young men. The corresponding percentages among young women were 53% and 34%, respectively. As shown in Figure 12.2, rural-urban differences suggest that more rural than urban youth, particularly young women reported voting in the last election (65% versus 61% among young men and 53% versus 37% among young women); the pattern differed in case of unmarried young women among whom more urban than rural women reported voting in the last election (40% versus 30%).

Table 12.5 also reports youth perceptions about political processes, notably the extent of disillusionment with the ability of any political party to achieve change at the community level and the extent to which respondents believed that people could vote freely and without fear, pressure or influence.

Figure 12.2: Percentage of youth aged 20 or above who voted in the last election, according to residence, Bihar, 2007



Findings indicate a gender divide in young people's perceptions about the commitment of political parties' to work for change at the community level. The majority of young men (69%) reported disillusionment with political parties' commitment to improving local conditions. In contrast, the majority of young women (52%) reported no such disillusionment and only one-third of young women agreed that there would be no improvement in their village/area no matter which political party was in control at the state level. Differences by marital status and rural-urban residence were negligible. At the same time, most young people—82% and 80% of young men and women, respectively—felt that one could vote freely and without fear or pressure. Even so, it was notable that 13% of young men and 10% of young women felt that one could not vote freely. While differences by marital status were negligible, urban youth were more likely than rural youth to report that one could vote freely and without fear or pressure (86% versus 81% among young men and 88% versus 79% among young women).

12.6 Expression of secular attitudes

In order to gauge attitudes regarding social interaction with individuals of different castes and religions, the Youth Study inquired whether youth mixed freely with those of other castes and religions, whether they would eat together with a person from a different caste or religion, whether they would talk to someone who had an inter-caste marriage and whether they considered it acceptable to punish someone who showed disrespect to their religion. Findings, presented in Table 12.6, suggest that on balance, youth did not express secular attitudes; however, expressions of secular attitudes varied considerably by issue, sex of the respondent and rural-urban residence.

In response to specific issues, both young men and young women were most likely to report that they mixed freely with individuals of different castes (95% and 87%, respectively) and religions (92% and 82%, respectively). Despite this relatively secular profile, many fewer reported that they would eat together with a person from a different caste or religion (64% of young men and 38% of young women) or talk to someone who had an inter-caste marriage (35% and 46%, respectively). Likewise, 63% of young men and 57% of young women felt that it was acceptable to punish someone who showed disrespect to their religion. On all issues assessed, except on the issues of social interactions with a person who had an inter-caste marriage and tolerance in situations characterised by religious disharmony, young men were more likely than young women to report secular attitudes.

Table 12.5: Voting behaviour of eligible youth and perceptions about political matters

Percentage of youth aged 20 or above who voted in the last election and percent distribution of all youth by their perceptions about political matters, according to residence, Bihar, 2007

Indicators (%)	M 15–24	W 15–24	MM 15–29	MW 15–24	UM 15–24	UW 15–24
Combined						
Voted in last election	64.5	51.1	79.4	52.8	61.6	34.1
Number aged 20 or above	**798**	**1,914**	**1,052**	**1,499**	**411**	**415**
Perceptions about political matters						
Irrespective of the political party governing the state, there would be no improvement in the village/neighbourhood						
Agree	68.5	34.8	69.1	35.6	67.8	33.3
Disagree	24.6	51.9	27.1	51.8	24.5	51.5
Can't say	6.8	13.3	3.8	12.6	7.5	15.2
One can vote freely, without fear, pressure or influence						
Agree	81.6	79.7	85.9	81.0	81.2	76.5
Disagree	12.9	9.8	11.8	9.1	12.5	11.4
Can't say	5.4	10.5	2.2	9.9	6.2	12.1
Number of respondents	**1,942**	**5,529**	**1,115**	**2,341**	**1,492**	**3,188**
Urban						
Voted in last election	60.7	36.9	76.4	35.0	60.7	40.2
Number aged 20 or above	**473**	**1,134**	**531**	**824**	**283**	**310**
Perceptions about political matters						
Irrespective of the political party governing the state, there would be no improvement in the village/neighbourhood						
Agree	64.5	35.3	68.5	36.6	63.1	34.4
Disagree	31.2	57.6	30.4	54.9	32.0	59.5
Can't say	4.3	7.1	1.1	8.5	4.9	6.1
One can vote freely, without fear, pressure or influence						
Agree	86.0	87.9	90.2	86.6	85.7	88.9
Disagree	10.0	6.6	8.7	6.3	10.2	6.5
Can't say	3.9	5.5	1.1	7.0	4.1	4.7
Number of respondents	**1,039**	**2,581**	**547**	**1,136**	**833**	**1,445**
Rural						
Voted in last election	65.3	53.1	79.8	54.3	61.9	30.1
Number aged 20 or above	**325**	**780**	**521**	**675**	**128**	**105**
Perceptions about political matters						
Irrespective of the political party governing the state, there would be no improvement in the village neighbourhood						
Agree	69.2	34.8	69.2	35.6	68.7	33.1
Disagree	23.5	51.1	26.8	51.6	23.1	50.0
Can't say	7.2	14.1	4.0	12.8	8.0	16.9
One can vote freely, without fear, pressure or influence						
Agree	80.9	78.6	85.5	80.6	80.4	74.2
Disagree	13.4	10.2	12.1	9.3	12.9	12.3
Can't say	5.6	11.1	2.3	10.0	6.5	13.5
Number of respondents	**903**	**2,948**	**568**	**1,205**	**659**	**1,743**

Note: All Ns are unweighted. Column totals may not equal 100% due to missing cases.

Table 12.6: Expression of secular attitudes

Percent distribution of youth by reported behaviours and attitudes towards interaction with people of different castes and religions, according to residence, Bihar, 2007

Behaviours/attitudes (%)	M 15–24	W 15–24	MM 15–29	MW 15–24	UM 15–24	UW 15–24
Combined						
Mixes freely with people of other castes						
Yes	95.3	87.2	97.6	87.1	95.2	86.9
No	4.6	12.8	2.4	12.9	4.6	13.1
Mixes freely with people of other religions						
Yes	91.9	82.4	93.4	82.2	92.4	82.2
No	7.9	17.5	6.5	17.6	7.4	17.6
Would eat together with a person of another caste/religion						
Yes	64.4	38.1	65.1	33.3	63.9	45.6
No	35.0	61.6	34.6	66.3	35.3	54.2
Would talk to a person who has had an inter-caste marriage						
Yes	34.5	46.1	33.6	47.9	35.5	43.4
No	64.2	53.5	65.1	51.8	63.3	55.9
Believes it is acceptable to punish someone who shows disrespect to respondent's religion						
Yes	62.6	56.8	62.0	58.8	62.1	53.5
No	31.5	41.7	34.2	39.9	31.5	44.7
Number of respondents	**1,942**	**5,529**	**1,115**	**2,341**	**1,492**	**3,188**
Urban						
Mixes freely with people of other castes						
Yes	97.5	91.4	98.9	90.8	97.5	91.5
No	2.5	8.6	1.1	9.2	2.5	8.5
Mixes freely with people of other religions						
Yes	96.1	89.3	97.8	88.0	96.3	90.1
No	3.9	10.7	2.2	12.0	3.7	9.9
Would eat together with a person of another caste/religion						
Yes	77.1	61.1	74.7	50.7	77.5	68.8
No	22.6	38.9	25.3	49.3	22.1	31.2
Would talk to a person who had an inter-caste marriage						
Yes	26.5	34.2	25.0	40.6	25.7	29.8
No	72.4	65.3	75.0	59.4	72.7	69.6
Believes it is acceptable to punish someone who shows disrespect to respondent's religion						
Yes	53.4	49.8	55.4	52.8	53.5	48.0
No	41.9	48.8	40.2	45.8	41.6	51.0
Number of respondents	**1,039**	**2,581**	**547**	**1,136**	**833**	**1,445**

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Table 12.6: (Cont'd)

Behaviours/attitudes (%)	M 15–24	W 15–24	MM 15–29	MW 15–24	UM 15–24	UW 15–24
Rural						
Mixes freely with people of other castes						
Yes	95.0	86.6	97.5	86.9	94.8	86.0
No	4.9	13.4	2.5	13.1	5.1	13.9
Mixes freely with people of other religions						
Yes	91.2	81.5	93.1	81.8	91.7	80.7
No	8.6	18.3	6.8	18.0	8.2	19.1
Would eat together with a person of another caste/religion						
Yes	62.3	35.1	64.3	32.2	61.3	41.4
No	37.1	64.5	35.4	67.4	37.9	58.4
Would talk to a person who had an inter-caste marriage						
Yes	35.8	47.6	34.4	48.4	37.3	46.0
No	62.8	52.0	64.2	51.3	61.5	53.4
Believes it is acceptable to punish someone who shows disrespect to respondent's religion						
Yes	64.1	57.7	62.6	59.2	63.8	54.6
No	29.8	40.8	33.6	39.5	29.5	43.6
Number of respondents	**903**	**2,948**	**568**	**1,205**	**659**	**1,743**

Note: All Ns are unweighted. Column totals may not equal 100% due to missing cases or "don't know" responses.

Differences in the nature of behaviours and attitudes towards individuals of different castes and religions were negligible by marital status among young men. Among young women, however, the unmarried were more likely than the married to report that they would eat together with a person from a different caste or religion (46% versus 33%) and to tolerate without punishment someone who showed disrespect to their religion (45% versus 40%). Conversely, the married were somewhat more likely than the unmarried to report that they would talk to someone who had an inter-caste marriage (48% versus 43%). Rural youth expressed considerably less secular attitudes than urban youth on such issues as mixing freely with individuals of different castes and religions and eating with those of other castes and religions. They were also considerably less likely than their urban counterparts to tolerate without punishment someone who showed disrespect to their religion (30–41% versus 42–49%). Only on the issue of talking to someone who had an inter-caste marriage were urban youth less likely than their rural counterparts to express secular attitudes.

12.7 Physical fights in the village or urban neighbourhood

All respondents were asked whether physical fights—more specifically, youth beating, slapping or pulling the hair of others—were common among young men and women, respectively, in their villages or neighbourhoods. Findings, presented in Table 12.7, suggest that physical fights were reported to be more common among young men than women. Four-fifths or more of youth—79% of young men and 84% of young women—reported that young men engaged in physical fights sometimes or often and over one-third of young men and two-thirds of young women reported the same for young women. Differences by marital status in reports of physical fighting among young men and women were negligible. While rural-urban differences were negligible among young men, more rural than urban young women reported physical fighting among both young men and women.

Table 12.7: Physical fights in village/neighbourhood

Percentage of youth reporting perceptions of youth involvement in physical fights in their village/neighbourhood and percentage of youth themselves involved in physical fights in the last 12 months, according to residence, Bihar, 2007

Perceptions/experiences of physical fights (%)	M 15–24	W 15–24	MM 15–29	MW 15–24	UM 15–24	UW 15–24
Combined						
Respondents' perceptions of the extent to which:						
Young men in the area engaged in physical fights						
Never	20.9	15.6	22.0	16.6	21.8	13.5
Sometimes	74.5	81.3	73.5	80.9	73.7	82.6
Often	4.5	3.1	4.3	2.5	4.6	4.0
Young women in the area engaged in physical fights						
Never	63.2	34.3	62.6	34.1	64.7	34.0
Sometimes	35.4	63.8	35.8	63.9	34.2	64.4
Often	1.2	1.8	1.4	1.9	1.1	1.7
Respondents themselves involved in physical fights in last 12 months	**14.1**	**4.1**	**10.5**	**4.4**	**15.3**	**3.7**
Number of respondents	**1,942**	**5,529**	**1,115**	**2,341**	**1,492**	**3,188**
Urban						
Respondents' perception of the extent to which:						
Young men in the area engaged in physical fights						
Never	21.1	19.8	23.9	19.0	20.5	20.0
Sometimes	71.3	73.8	70.7	75.4	71.7	72.9
Often	7.5	6.4	5.4	5.6	7.8	7.1
Young women in the area engaged in physical fights						
Never	65.4	44.3	64.1	43.0	65.7	45.3
Sometimes	32.1	53.3	33.7	54.9	31.8	52.1
Often	2.5	2.4	2.2	2.1	2.4	2.6
Respondents themselves involved in physical fights in last 12 months	**15.1**	**2.4**	**12.0**	**2.8**	**15.1**	**2.0**
Number of respondents	**1,039**	**2,581**	**547**	**1,136**	**833**	**1,445**
Rural						
Respondents' perception of the extent to which:						
Young men in the area engaged in physical fights						
Never	20.9	15.1	21.9	16.4	22.1	12.2
Sometimes	75.0	82.3	73.7	81.4	74.1	84.3
Often	4.0	2.6	4.2	2.3	3.8	3.4
Young women in the area engaged in physical fights						
Never	62.9	33.0	62.6	33.6	64.4	31.9
Sometimes	36.0	65.2	36.0	64.5	34.8	66.6
Often	1.0	1.8	1.3	1.9	0.8	1.5
Respondents themselves involved in physical fights in last 12 months	**13.9**	**4.4**	**10.3**	**4.5**	**15.3**	**4.0**
Number of respondents	**903**	**2,948**	**568**	**1,205**	**659**	**1,743**

Note: All Ns are unweighted. Column totals may not equal 100% due to missing cases or "don't know" responses.

Youth were also asked a direct question about their own involvement in physical fights with anyone within the village or urban neighbourhood in the 12 months preceding the interview. The question did not elaborate further and hence we acknowledge that responses may include fights among family members and others. One in seven young men and 4% of young women reported that they had been involved in physical fights. Rural-urban differences were negligible; marital status differences were negligible among young women, however, somewhat more unmarried than married young men reported the experience of violence (15% and 11%, respectively).

12.8 Perceptions of leading problems facing youth

Finally, youth were asked to give their opinion on the most important problem facing youth in their villages or urban areas. Findings presented in Table 12.8 clearly suggest that unemployment, poverty, lack of amenities and lack of educational opportunities were described as leading problems by both young men and women. Percentages reporting each of these problems varied enormously, however, by sex. Large proportions of young men, irrespective of marital status or rural-urban residence, reported difficulty in finding employment as the single most pressing problem (48%), followed by poverty more generally (21%), lack of educational opportunities (16%) and concerns about lack of amenities or infrastructure—i.e., water and sanitation, roads and electricity—(7%). Together, these four issues were expressed by 91% of young men. Young women, in contrast to young men, focused largely on lack of amenities and infrastructure (31%) and, to a lesser extent, poverty more generally (20%), lack of opportunities for education (14%) and difficulty in finding employment (13%). These four issues were together reported by 79% of young women.

Differences by marital status were modest; even so, compared to unmarried youth, the married were less likely to report lack of educational opportunities (9–10% versus 18–25%) as leading problems facing youth. Married young men, in addition, were more likely than unmarried young men to report difficulty in finding a job (57% versus 45%). Similarly, married young women were more likely than the unmarried to report poverty (23% versus 16%) and concerns about lack of amenities or infrastructure (36% versus 24%).

Table 12.8: Perceptions about the leading problem facing youth

Percent distribution of youth by their perceptions of the leading problem facing youth, according to residence, Bihar, 2007

Leading problem (%)	M 15–24	W 15–24	MM 15–29	MW 15–24	UM 15–24	UW 15–24
Combined						
Finding a job/unemployment	48.0	13.0	57.2	14.3	45.3	10.0
Poverty	20.7	20.3	19.7	22.9	20.5	15.9
Lack of amenities/infrastructure (water/toilets/ roads/electricity)	6.5	31.1	7.0	35.6	6.5	23.8
Health-/health service-related concerns	0.2	0.5	0.0	0.6	0.3	0.4
Security of girls/law and order	0.2	4.3	0.0	3.4	0.2	5.4
Finding a good spouse/dowry	0.2	3.9	0.0	2.7	0.3	5.7
Lack of educational opportunities	16.0	14.4	10.1	8.9	18.1	24.9
Lack of career counselling/vocational training	0.5	6.7	0.4	5.8	0.5	8.3
Alcohol/drug abuse	0.5	0.3	0.3	0.4	0.7	0.1
Lack of sex education	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1
Other[1]	2.3	0.7	1.5	0.3	2.3	1.4
Don't know/can't say	4.9	4.7	3.5	5.1	5.2	4.0
Number of respondents	**1,942**	**5,529**	**1,115**	**2,341**	**1,492**	**3,188**

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Table 12.8: (Cont'd)

Leading problem (%)	M 15–24	W 15–24	MM 15–29	MW 15–24	UM 15–24	UW 15–24
Urban						
Finding a job/unemployment	59.6	23.1	69.9	28.2	58.8	19.2
Poverty	16.1	13.1	16.1	16.2	15.9	10.9
Lack of amenities/infrastructure (water/toilets/ roads/electricity)	4.6	15.1	4.3	19.0	4.5	11.9
Health-/health service-related concerns	0.0	0.3	0.0	0.7	0.0	0.4
Security of girls/law and order	0.4	9.9	0.0	4.9	0.4	13.6
Finding a good spouse/dowry	0.0	8.8	0.0	6.3	0.0	10.7
Lack of educational opportunities	10.7	13.2	6.5	7.7	11.4	17.0
Lack of career counselling/vocational training	1.1	8.6	0.0	8.5	1.2	8.9
Alcohol/drug abuse	0.7	0.3	1.1	0.7	0.4	0.2
Lack of sex education	0.4	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.4	0.0
Other[1]	1.8	2.2	1.1	0.7	2.0	3.2
Don't know/can't say	4.6	5.2	1.1	7.0	4.9	3.8
Number of respondents	**1,039**	**2,581**	**547**	**1,136**	**833**	**1,445**
Rural						
Finding a job/unemployment	46.0	11.7	56.1	13.4	42.7	8.2
Poverty	21.5	21.3	20.1	23.3	21.4	16.8
Lack of amenities/infrastructure (water/toilets/ roads/electricity)	6.8	33.2	7.2	36.7	6.9	26.0
Health-/health service-related concerns	0.2	0.5	0.0	0.5	0.3	0.4
Security of girls/law and order	0.1	3.5	0.0	3.3	0.2	3.9
Finding a good spouse/dowry	0.2	3.2	0.0	2.5	0.3	4.8
Lack of educational opportunities	16.8	14.5	10.5	9.0	19.4	26.3
Lack of career counselling/vocational training	0.4	6.5	0.5	5.6	0.4	8.2
Alcohol/drug abuse	0.5	0.3	0.2	0.4	0.6	0.1
Lack of sex education	0.0	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.0	0.1
Other[1]	2.4	0.5	1.6	0.2	2.4	1.0
Don't know/can't say	5.0	4.7	3.7	5.0	5.3	4.1
Number of respondents	**903**	**2,948**	**568**	**1,205**	**659**	**1,743**

Note: All Ns are unweighted. Column totals may not equal 100% due to missing cases. [1]Includes lack of recreational/sports facilities, lack of political participation, gambling, corruption, child marriage, lack of loan services, limited freedom for girls, social conflicts, generation gap, parents not allowing love marriage, caste differences, etc.

Urban youth were more likely than rural youth to feel that difficulty in finding employment was a leading problem facing youth (60% versus 46% among young men and 23% versus 12% among young women). Conversely, rural youth were more likely than urban youth to feel that poverty was a leading problem facing youth (22% and 21% of men and women in rural areas, compared to 16% and 13%, respectively, in urban areas). Young men in rural areas were, in addition, more likely than urban young men to report lack of educational opportunities (17% versus 11%) and young women in rural areas were more likely than those in urban areas to report lack of amenities/infrastructure (33% versus 15%). Conversely, young women in urban areas were more likely than those in rural areas to cite lack of safety for girls (10% versus 4%) and difficulty in findings a good spouse and dowry (9% versus 3%) as leading problems.

12.9 Summary

Findings highlight extremely limited participation of youth in civil society. Although a number of programmes are held to build youth skills, very few youth (8–15%) reported familiarity with either government- or NGO-sponsored programmes organised at the community level in which youth could participate. Even fewer youth—7% of young men 2% of young women—reported participating in any such programme. Almost

one-quarter of young men (23%) but hardly any young women (4%) reported that they had participated in community-sponsored programmes such as cleanliness drives, celebration of festivals and national days, and so on. Finally, just 8% of young men and 2% of young women reported membership in organised groups.

Findings suggest that voting behaviour was far from universal. Among those eligible, 65% of young men and 51% of young women had cast their votes in the most recent election for which they were eligible to vote. Four-fifths of youth perceived that one could vote freely and without fear and pressure. However, large proportions of youth, particularly young men—69% of young men and 35% of young women—reported disillusionment with the commitment of political parties to work for change at the community level.

Expressions of secular attitudes varied. Over 90% of young men and over 80% of young women reported that they mixed freely with individuals of different religions and castes. However, only 64% of young men and 38% of young women would eat together with a person of a different caste or religion, just 35% of young men and 46% of young women would talk to a person who has had an inter-caste marriage and only 32% of young men and 42% of young women agreed that it was best to tolerate rather than punish someone who insulted their religion.

Considerable proportions of young men and women acknowledged that physical fights among young men and also among young women did occur in their villages or urban neighbourhoods; one in seven young men and 4% of young women reported that they had been involved in a physical fight in the year preceding the interview.

The four leading problems facing youth expressed by both young men and women were unemployment, poverty, lack of amenities and lack of educational opportunities. However, young people's perceptions of the leading problems facing youth varied enormously by sex. Among young men, the majority reported difficulty in finding employment as the leading problem, followed by concerns about poverty more generally, lack of educational opportunities and lack of amenities or infrastructure. In contrast, the leading problem expressed by young women was lack of amenities and infrastructure, and to a lesser extent, poverty more generally, lack of opportunities for education and difficulties in finding employment. Marital status differences were also evident, with the unmarried far more concerned about lack of appropriate educational opportunities than the married, and the married, conversely, far more concerned than the unmarried about job opportunities. Rural youth too were far more concerned than urban youth about the lack of educational opportunities and far less concerned about finding a job.

Chapter 13

Looking forward

Findings of the Youth Study presented in earlier chapters highlight the situation of young men and women in Bihar. They underscore the fact that youth are a heterogeneous group with correspondingly diverse needs, and identify numerous challenges youth face in making the transition to adulthood. Findings suggest several priority programmatic areas for action as well as several themes requiring research attention, which are highlighted in this chapter.

13.1 Recommendations for programmes

The multiple socio-economic and sexual and reproductive health vulnerabilities faced by youth in Bihar call for programmatic attention at several levels, including at the youth, family and service delivery levels.

Strengthen efforts to achieve universal school enrolment and at least primary school completion

Youth Study findings that primary school enrolment is far from universal even among the youth cohort call for concerted efforts to achieve universal enrolment of children in school. Moreover, findings suggesting substantial declines in school attendance even at the primary level and relatively low rates of primary school completion emphasize in no uncertain terms that rigorous efforts are needed in order that the state meets the Millennium Development Goal of ensuring universal primary school completion.

While achieving universal enrolment and primary school attainment are key shorter-term goals, the importance of high school education in enabling youth to make a successful transition to adulthood underscores the need, at the same time, for efforts to overcome barriers to high school completion.

A number of factors have been identified in the Youth Study that inhibit school enrolment and primary school completion; leading among these are economic reasons, attitudes and perceptions of youth and their parents, as well as housework responsibilities among young women. Multiple activities are needed to address these barriers. Efforts must be made, for example, to address the economic pressures that dissuade parents from enrolling their children in school in the first place or from keeping them in school once enrolled. Conditional grants and targeted subsidies that encourage school enrolment and completion among disadvantaged groups need to be considered. At the same time, activities directed at parents are needed that promote positive attitudes towards education and school completion, raise aspirations for the education of their children and encourage greater parental involvement in their children's education.

Activities must also address school-level barriers, notably, distance to school, poor infrastructure and poor quality of education, significant motivating factors behind discontinuation particularly among young women. The state government has launched some schemes to address some of these barriers (see for example the bicycle scheme for girls); it is important that the effectiveness of such schemes is evaluated and promising lessons are assimilated and scaled up.

There is also a need to incorporate livelihood skills building models within the school setting that provide opportunities for those in school to gain market-driven job skills and also expand young people's aspirations regarding their education and careers. Moreover, investments are needed that focus on providing better training and ensuring accountability for teachers and thereby improving the quality of the schooling experience. Finally, given the large proportions reporting that schooling had been interrupted because they were required for work on the family farm or business or for housework, and given the reality of young people's lives and the economic pressures on families, efforts need to be made to adjust school timings, including establishment of evening schools to enable children to accommodate work on the family farm or business without sacrificing their education.

Findings indicating transition to adult roles, particularly early marriage, as an important reason for school discontinuation—even as early as primary school—among girls, emphasise the fact that programmatic commitments outside the education sector are also critical to the achievement of universal school enrolment and completion. Specifically required are programmes that seek to critically examine norms and practices surrounding marriage and to eliminate the practice of early marriage. Explorations of subsidies and cash transfers that link school retention and delayed marriage among girls are needed.

The stark gender divide and rural-urban divide observed in school enrolment and attendance call for efforts that specifically target female children and rural children in general. Moreover, findings suggest that married young women remain considerably disadvantaged. Interventions are needed that give married young women a second chance to obtain a basic education.

Invest in promoting youth employment

Findings of the Youth Study that considerable proportions of youth had initiated work in childhood reiterate the recommendation highlighted above regarding the need to provide conditional grants and targeted subsidies to disadvantaged groups, which would encourage parents to opt for schooling over work for their children.

Findings have pointed to the effective unemployability of youth. For example, few youth had completed primary or high school and even fewer had attended a single vocational training programme. Moreover, considerable proportions of youth, particularly the educated, were unemployed. Clearly, the state must strengthen significantly its investments in programmes to enable youth to make successful transitions into work roles, including provision of soft loans for youth to set up their own enterprises. At the same time, efforts are needed that evaluate existing programmes, upscale successful models and raise awareness among youth about their availability. While enhancing employability will depend to a considerable degree on improvements in educational attainment discussed above, it will also require greater investment in enabling youth to acquire vocational skills. Formal mechanisms must be developed that provide opportunities to youth to acquire vocational skills for which there is an established market demand, and that link eligible youth to market opportunities. These efforts, through various livelihood schemes, must promote self-employment and entrepreneurship among young people.

Findings also suggest the need for a special focus on young women. Significant proportions of young women currently engaged in economic activities had done so only part-time and worked largely in agricultural activities. In addition, many young women were seeking employment at the time of the interview. These findings highlight the need for specially targeted programmes for young women.

Promote youth agency and gender equitable norms among youth

Findings presented in this report highlight the persistence of gender double standards and extremely limited agency of young women. Stark gender differences were evident in school enrolment, attendance and completion, participation in the labour market, exposure to mass media, parental control of adolescent's mobility and interactions with peers, exercise of choice in matters affecting young people's lives, freedom of movement and access to resources. Gender equitable norms were not universally expressed; young women were more likely to express equitable gender role attitudes than young men, but were also more likely than young men to justify wife beating. These findings call for multi-pronged interventions to promote gender equitable norms and practices that are directed at young women, young men, their families, communities, and educational, labour and health systems.

A programme priority is to promote life skills education programmes for young women, both unmarried and married, that will not only raise their awareness of new ideas and the world around them but also enable them to put information into practice, encourage them to question gender stereotypes, develop self-esteem and strengthen their abilities in problems-solving, decision-making, communication and inter-personal relations and negotiations. Safe spaces should be identified in which young women can build social networks and find social support among peers.

Interventions intended to build life skills must also be inclusive of young men. Indeed, findings indicate that inegalitarian gender role attitudes were expressed by many young men. Moreover, while young men were clearly not as disadvantaged as young women, findings indicate that many young men were not able to exercise agency in their everyday lives. These findings call for life skills education programmes for young men that promote new concepts of masculinity and femininity among youth and at the same time, promote messages that build egalitarian relations between women and men.

Promoting gender equitable norms and practices requires active engagement with the community. It is essential that programmes for youth work with key community members, such as parents, political and religious leaders in the community, to critically examine prevailing gender norms and forces that perpetuate such norms.

An increasing number of intervention models to build agency and promote egalitarian gender role attitudes among young people have been tested in India. These models should be reviewed and replicated or scaled up as appropriate.

Provide opportunities for formal saving, especially for young women

Findings suggest that while young women were more likely than young men to report savings, few youth, irrespective of sex, owned a savings account. Among those who did own an account, young women were far less likely than young men to operate the account independently. Programmes are needed that inculcate a savings orientation among both young men and young women, that offer savings products that are attractive and appropriate to the small and erratic savings patterns of young people and that enable young women in particular to overcome obstacles related to owning and controlling savings products.

Promote youth participation in civil society and political processes and reinforce secular attitudes

Findings suggest that for many youth, opportunities to engage in civic and political life are limited and secular attitudes are not uniformly expressed. Programmes are needed—at the school, college and community levels, through national service programmes, sports and other non-formal mechanisms—that encourage civic

participation, incorporate value building components and reinforce secular attitudes and values that espouse responsible citizenship.

Provide family life or sex education for those in school and out of school

Youth Study findings provide considerable evidence suggesting that family life or sex education is urgently needed among youth, both for those in school and those who have discontinued their education. Findings demonstrate extremely limited understanding of sexual and reproductive matters among young people, including the married. Misconceptions abound on most topics: sex and pregnancy, contraceptive methods including condoms, STIs and HIV/AIDS and the conditions under which abortion is legally available or restricted. And knowledge of STIs is far more limited than knowledge of HIV/AIDS. Where awareness of sexual and reproductive health matters exists, it is typically superficial.

Youth themselves have called for family life or sex education. Findings highlight that large proportions recognised the need for information on these issues, and indicated a preference for receiving this education from teachers, health care providers or parents. However, few young people had been exposed to family life or sex education. Substantial proportions of married young women and young men reported entering marriage completely unaware of what it entailed. At the same time, substantial minorities of young people had engaged in sexual risk taking.

There is clearly a pressing rationale for school-based family life or sex education for those in school and community-based expert-led education for those out of school. These programmes should be age-appropriate and provide information on sexual and reproductive matters and sexual and reproductive rights; about pregnancy as well as the causes, transmission routes and prevention of infection. However, they should be designed not only to raise awareness among youth but also to enable young people to correctly understand and assess the risks they face and to adopt appropriate protective actions.

In view of the finding that the media are a major source of sexual and reproductive health information for youth, efforts must be made, at the same time, for communications initiatives that inform while entertaining youth about sexual and reproductive matters.

In addition, special attention needs to be paid to the training of trainers. Considerable proportions of youth who reported having received formal family life or sex education reported feeling uncomfortable or embarrassed in the course of family life or sex education. These findings raise questions about the extent to which they were indeed able to participate freely and clarify their doubts and at the same time, about the ability of trainers to connect with youth to whom they provided this education. Such findings clearly highlight the need for improving the quality of training imparted to trainers. It is important that teachers, health care providers and other experts undergo training that enables them to overcome their reluctance about communicating with youth on sensitive sexual and reproductive matters, that dispels their misconceptions on these matters, and that enhances their technical knowledge on sexual and reproductive issues.

Ensure that the transition to sexual life is safe and wanted

While for the vast majority of young women and men sexual activity is initiated within the context of marriage, findings show that significant minorities of youth, particularly young men had engaged in sex before marriage. As documented in this report, many youth had initiated sexual activity uninformed, which reiterates the need for providing family life or sex education to young people. Moreover, findings that for many, pre-marital sexual experiences were unsafe or unwanted calls for programmes that focus on building sexual

and reproductive health awareness among young people as well as developing their skills in negotiating safe sex and communicating with their partners. At the same time, programmes must make available appropriate family planning and infection prevention services for both married and unmarried young men and women in a manner acceptable to them.

Intensify efforts to eliminate the practice of early marriage

Findings indicate an adherence, even among youth, to the traditional social norms around child marriage and the practice of early marriage not only among young women but also, to a lesser extent, among young men in the state. These findings call for measures that go beyond information campaigns to address the social norms and economic factors driving early marriage and ensure the stricter enforcement of existing laws prohibiting early marriage in the state.

There is clearly a need for an intensified, multi-pronged approach to eliminate the practice of early marriage. Strategies are needed that mobilise communities to help parents resist pressures that foster the practice of early marriage. Strategies intended to evolve new norms and new practices should both actively engage influential persons in the community including religious and political leaders as well as implement campaigns highlighting the adverse consequences of early marriage, and how it is a violation of the rights of the child. Community mobilization efforts must involve youth themselves, their families, as well as influential persons in the community, including religious and political leaders.

Equally important is to ensure greater commitment on the part of law enforcement agencies to enforce existing laws on the minimum age at marriage and the registration of marriages, and to levy penalties for violators. Allowing anonymous reporting, working with the police and others to make clear that the practice of early marriage is not a minor violation, and making guidelines for penalties clear and transparent are some possible steps.

Efforts to delay marriage also require providing girls with meaningful and viable alternatives to early marriage. Advising families to send their daughters to school when schools are too far away, the classroom is hostile to girls, or education is of poor quality, will not work. Working with the education sector to make schooling for girls more accessible, and to make classrooms more gender-sensitive and responsive to the needs of young girls and the concerns of their parents is important. At the same time, it is necessary to make efforts to provide livelihoods training, within or outside the educational system.

Findings that marriages were often arranged without the participation of young people themselves and that few young people had an opportunity to meet their spouse-to-be prior to the wedding day call for actions to encourage parents to involve children in marriage-related decisions and enable them to interact with their prospective spouses prior to the wedding day. Parents must also be made aware of the physical and mental health dangers of early marriage and the adverse experiences of many young women (and some young men) who were married early or who were unprepared for marriage.

Enable married young women to exercise greater control over their lives

Findings on the multiple vulnerabilities faced by married young women underscore the need for programmes that support them, acknowledging that their situation and needs may differ from those of married adults. Married young women are notably isolated, have little decision-making authority and have few sources of support. They have limited communication with their husbands, and notable proportions have suffered physical and sexual violence perpetrated by their husbands.

Efforts are needed that address the health and empowerment needs of married young women and enable them to have greater control over resources. Also needed are efforts to break down the social isolation of newly married young women, encourage couple communication and build negotiation and conflict management skills early in marriage. Intervention models that have attempted to address these needs exist in India; these should be reviewed and up-scaled as appropriate so that married young women have the opportunity to exercise control over their lives.

Support newly-weds to postpone the first pregnancy and promote pregnancy-related care among those who become pregnant

Findings show that the social pressure to bear children as soon as possible following marriage persists. Contraceptives were rarely used to postpone the first pregnancy and although the desire to have delayed the first pregnancy was expressed by large proportions of young men and women, many young women experienced their first pregnancy soon after marriage. It would appear that numerous forces work against delaying the first pregnancy—young people's lack of awareness of appropriate methods of contraception and access to supplies, their limited skills in countering social expectations and negotiating pregnancy postponement, overwhelming pressure from the family and community to bear children as soon as possible after marriage, and lack of attention from health care providers.

Programmes are needed that inform youth about their pregnancy postponement options and enable them to access appropriate contraception. At the same time, providers must be trained and charged with the responsibility of reaching married young women and men—including those who have not yet experienced pregnancy—with information regarding contraception and other reproductive health matters as well as contraceptive supplies. The limited mobility of married young women to seek health care underscores the need for health workers to seek these women—particularly those newly married and first time pregnant—in their homes.

Findings also underscore that access to maternal health services was limited, even at the time of the first—and often the most risky—pregnancy. Just one in four first births took place in a health facility; moreover, skilled attendance at first delivery was reported by just one in three young women and two in five young men. These findings highlight that reproductive and child health programmes in the state need to lay emphasis on increasing demand as well as improving the availability of such services to young people.

Create a supportive family environment

Findings highlight the limited interaction and social distance between parents and young people while growing up and the gendered nature of socialisation experiences. Efforts must be made to create a supportive environment for young people. While evidence on models that are effective in bridging the distance between parents and children or enabling parents to adopt gender-egalitarian socialisation practices is not currently available, findings presented in this report call for programmes that address parental inhibitions about discussing sexual matters with their children, encourage greater openness and interaction between parents and children, and enable the adoption of gender-egalitarian child-rearing practices.

Reorient service provision to address the unique needs of unmarried and married young women and men

Although the RCH Programme has advocated special services for youth, including the unmarried, these services have not reached youth. Few youth were aware of sources of sexual and reproductive health information or contraceptive supplies, few had sought care for symptoms of STI or gynaecological problems, and most

of those who had sought care for the latter preferred private to public sector facilities. Moreover, findings suggest that many youth, including the married, would indeed find it difficult to seek appropriate care for sexual and reproductive matters.

The disconnect between the public health sector and youth underscores the need to sensitise health care providers about the special needs, heterogeneity and vulnerability of unmarried and married young women and men, and to orient them to the need for developing appropriate strategies to reach these diverse groups, including young newly-weds. Programmes must be inclusive of unmarried young people and recognise their need and right to sexual and reproductive health and related information and services. Counselling and contraceptive services must be made available to unmarried young people in a non-threatening, non-judgmental and confidential environment. Indeed, these findings call for the implementation of strategies outlined under the National Rural Health Mission's RCH Programme.

Findings that very few youth sought care for health problems and that those who sought care preferred to seek care from the private sector and traditional providers rather than the public sector, suggest the need to explore the feasibility of implementing various demand side financing strategies, for example, health insurance, competitive voucher schemes and community financing schemes, in enabling youth to obtain quality care from a wider array of providers.

In addition, there is a great need for mental health issues to be addressed. Symptoms suggestive of mental health disorders were evident among sizeable proportions of youth. Efforts are needed to screen young people for mental health disorders when they avail of other primary health services, including, for example, sexual and reproductive health services, and to refer youth with such symptoms to appropriate health facilitates and providers.

13.2 Directions for future research

Findings presented in this report provide a broad picture of youth in Bihar. At the same time, however, they have raised a number of issues that require further investigation, particularly with regard to the determinants and consequences of youth behaviours and practices during their transition to adulthood. While the Youth Study is indeed a rich source of data that will enable investigators to fill many of the information gaps identified, there are several gaps in knowledge that will require additional research efforts.

A general research recommendation is the urgent need for prospective or panel study designs that follow a cohort of adolescents at regular intervals up to age 24. Thus far, research has relied on cross-sectional data. While these data are valuable in describing the levels and trends in key markers of transitions to adulthood, they rarely capture the ways in which the situation and experiences of youth in adolescence influence their life courses at later ages. Moreover, drawing causal inferences from cross-sectional surveys has several limitations.

Non-enrolment and early school discontinuation

While evidence presented in this report sheds some light on the reasons for non-enrolment in school and early discontinuation from school, further research is needed that profiles youth most at risk of never attending school or dropping out even before completing primary education. What are the obstacles faced by their families in retaining their children in school, and what approaches do parents and other gatekeepers recommend to mitigate these barriers? Moreover, even though large proportions of young women reported early transitions into marriage as a significant motivating factor behind school discontinuation, research is

needed that explores whether it is early marriage that curtails schooling for young women or whether it is such factors as poverty and school-related factors including access and quality that lead to school discontinuation and thereby perpetuate early marriage. As suggested in the section on recommendations for programmes, a variety of interventions—that address school quality issues, enhance parental involvement in children's education, provide the out-of-school, and especially married young women, a second chance to continue their education and provide conditional grants and targeted subsidies for disadvantaged groups—need to be implemented and systematically documented. In addition, operations research is required that evaluates the effectiveness and feasibility of these programmes.

Transition to work

Several questions related to young people's transition to work remain unanswered. Large numbers of youth in Bihar make early transitions to work; yet, relatively little is known about the kinds of work they undertake, the time they spend in work activities and the extent to which their activities mark a significant labour contribution to their households. Further research is needed that explores these issues among those reporting early transitions into work.

With regard to vocational skills building, research is needed that explores the kinds of vocational training programmes that are available to youth, and the extent to which these are accessible in practice. Research is also needed that examines the factors underlying the findings that few young people received vocational skills training even though large proportions were in favour of receiving such training, and that despite the availability of a range of vocational skills training opportunities, many young women continued to opt for training in traditional vocational skills. Research must also assess the extent to which these programmes reflect market needs on the one hand and youth preferences on the other, and the extent to which vocational training enables youth—especially the relatively poorly educated—to secure employment in the field in which they have been trained. Finally, there is a need for operations research that will test models intended to enable youth to acquire skills for which there is an established market demand and link eligible youth to market opportunities.

Socialisation experiences, interaction with parents

Youth Study findings show that socialisation is highly gendered and parent-child interaction is limited, particularly on more sensitive issues such as those relating to sex and reproduction. Despite this, little is known about the factors that inhibit young people from confiding in parents on sensitive matters, or the ways in which limited interaction and hierarchical socialisation patterns may influence young people's lives, for example, their sexual behaviours, their aspirations for the future or their ability to exercise informed choices in their lives. Similarly, there is a dearth of research on parents' perspectives on the socialisation of sons and daughters, the extent to which parents perceive or justify different socialisation practices for sons and daughters, the extent to which and the ways in which parents communicate sensitive matters to their adolescent children, and the factors inhibiting parents from adopting gender-egalitarian socialisation practices and communicating with their adolescent children on sexual and reproductive matters. As mentioned earlier, there is a need to design and test interventions intended to involve parents more meaningfully in young people's transitions to adulthood in terms of educational attainment, work, marriage and initiation of sexual relations.

Sexual risk behaviours

Research is needed that explores the correlates of behaviours that undermine healthy development among young people, for example, sexual risk behaviours, substance use and the linkages between them. At the same time, it would be useful to identify the characteristics of youth who make the transition in a healthy way, for example, practise consistent condom use, seek appropriate care and so on.

The Youth Study has raised serious methodological concerns that need to be addressed. For example, despite the fact that the study did employ such methods as gradual sequencing of questions to include progressively more sensitive questions (with regard to romantic and sexual relationships), anonymous third-party reporting and anonymous sealed envelope reporting, as in many studies, pre-marital sexual experience was far less likely to be reported among young women than young men. Moreover, sex worker, exchange, forced and same-sex relationships were rarely reported. Such findings emphasise the need to continue the search for appropriate methodologies to measure sensitive behaviours among youth; computer-assisted survey interviews are one such option. Indeed, methodological studies that compare estimates derived using different approaches could provide an insight into efforts to refine measures of reporting of sensitive behaviours among youth.

Early marriage and childbearing

Research is needed that explores the extent to which early marriage compromises young people's lives. For example, does early marriage impede young women's ability to exercise agency in the marital home? How prepared for marriage are those who marry early and how does preparedness or lack thereof influence married life?

Many youth reported that they had not used any contraceptives to delay the first pregnancy and consequently experienced pregnancy soon after marriage. Further research is needed that sheds light on the factors that undermine young people's ability to delay the first pregnancy.

Several promising interventions that are intended to address the social isolation experienced by married young women and/or their reproductive health needs, including delaying pregnancy or making pregnancy safe, have been implemented. However, few of these interventions have been rigorously evaluated and there is a need for research that assesses the feasibility and possibility of scaling up various such interventions.

Partner violence

Youth Study findings have documented domestic and sexual violence perpetrated by young men on their wives, as well as forced sex experienced in romantic and non-romantic situations by a small number of young women prior to marriage. Findings call for research that explores the factors underlying these experiences of violence, documents their health and social consequences for young women and men and their children, and tests interventions that enable youth to prevent such violence on one hand, and to overcome obstacles to seeking prompt and appropriate care on the other.

Influence of family life or sex education on sexual relations

Findings suggest that few youth are aware in-depth about sexual and reproductive matters, clearly posing an obstacle to their ability to make informed choices. Research is needed that explores the extent to which young people's awareness of sexual and reproductive matters and of sexual and reproductive rights varies according to the sources from which they derive their knowledge. Equally important are studies that examine

the sexual and reproductive awareness and technical competence to communicate sensitive sexual matters to young people of those from whom information is sought—including, for example, teachers, health care providers and parents.

There has been some reticence in several states of the country to impart school-based family life or sex education to youth on the assumption—disproved in some settings—that such education will encourage youth to engage in risky sexual behaviours. Research is needed that explores the extent to which exposure to school-based family life or sex education does indeed enable youth to make informed decisions and adopt safe behaviours in the area of sexual and reproductive health. Research is also needed that explores whether the transition into married life is safer and healthier among those—particularly young women—who were exposed to such education.

Agency and gender role attitudes

While findings confirm the limited agency of youth, particularly young women, and gender inegalitarian attitudes held by youth, particularly young men, several gaps remain in our understanding of the ways in which these affect young people's transitions to adulthood. Further research is needed, for example, that identifies the factors underlying the espousal of unequal and equal gender role attitudes by young men, and that explores the ways in which inegalitarian gender role attitudes and limited agency compromise sexual and reproductive health among young men and women.

Methodological issues also arise. There is a need to refine measures of agency as applicable to young men and women. The Youth Study has obtained data on multiple dimensions of agency among young men and women, the married and the unmarried and those from rural and urban areas. These data lend themselves to methodological exercises that measure agency among youth, that assess the extent to which key components of agency may differ across different categories of youth and that explore whether a single summary measure of agency can be developed that are relevant to youth.

Access to and control over resources

Findings that very few youth, irrespective of sex, owned a savings account, and among those who did own an account, young women were far less likely than young men to operate the account independently call for efforts to map savings and credit options available to youth. At the same time, research is needed that assesses the financial literacy skills of youth, their savings and spending patterns, barriers faced in accessing existing financial products, and ways in which these barriers can be overcome

Mental health disorders

Findings suggest that many young people, particularly young men, experience symptoms suggestive of mental disorders. Research is needed that explores young people's mental health profiles in greater depth and that assesses the linkages between sexual and reproductive health on one hand, and mental health on the other; and that explores factors explaining why young men were more likely than young women to report mental health problems.

Health-seeking for sexual and reproductive health symptoms

Findings suggesting that health care seeking, particularly for sexual and reproductive matters, is limited, highlight the need for research that explores the factors inhibiting youth from seeking care. As a start, the

Youth Study data will enable exploration of the factors distinguishing those who sought care from those who did not, in terms of both socio-economic factors as well as parental and peer interaction levels and youth inhibitions about seeking services relating to sexual matters. Other topics requiring research attention include in-depth explorations of ways articulated by youth to overcome these barriers to care seeking on the one hand and of reasons underlying youth preference for private and traditional rather than public sector health care on the other. At the same time, research is needed that assesses the perspective of providers with regard to the barriers they face in providing services to youth and ways in which to overcome these.

In brief, the Youth Study has documented, for the first time, the multi-faceted situation of youth in Bihar. The study alerts us to the many challenges confronting youth and their ability to make a successful transition to adulthood. It emphasises the heterogeneity of youth, not only in terms of their situation but also with regard to their stated needs and preferred mechanisms to address these needs. Programmes must recognise the heterogeneity of young people, and interventions and delivery mechanisms should be appropriately tailored to meet their needs. Evidence presented here provides not only a blue-print for the programming needs of youth in Bihar but also a base-line by which to measure the impact of programmes intended to address youth needs.

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Appendix B

Estimates of sampling errors

As in the case of any sample survey, estimates from the Youth Study in Bihar, as presented in Chapters 1–12, are affected by two major sources of errors: non-sampling and sampling errors. Non-sampling errors are generally the result of procedural mistakes made during data collection and data processing, such as, the inability to locate and interview the correct household or individual, failure to conform to standard survey procedures laid out by the central office, misunderstanding of questions on the part of either the interviewer or the respondent, and data entry errors. At the same time, because of the inclusion of numerous sensitive issues, the Youth Study faced the risk of other non-sampling errors as well, such as, the deliberate skipping of sensitive questions by the interviewer or refusal to answer sensitive questions by the respondent. In order to minimise non-sampling errors, a number of precautions were taken during the implementation of the study, which are described in detail in Chapter 1. However, we acknowledge that despite these efforts, non-sampling errors are impossible to avoid; they are, moreover, extremely difficult to evaluate statistically.

Sampling errors, on the other hand, can be evaluated statistically. These errors, as the name suggests, result from the choice of the particular sample selected. The sample of respondents selected in the Youth Study is only one of many possible samples that could have been selected from the population of Bihar, using the same design and expected sample size. Each of these samples would have yielded results that differed somewhat from the results of the sample selected. The sampling error is a measure of variability among all possible samples. Although the degree of variability may not be known exactly, it can be estimated from the survey results using standard statistical procedures.

A sampling error, usually measured in terms of the *standard error* for a particular statistic (mean, percentage, ratio, etc.), is the square root of the variance of that statistic. The standard error can be used to calculate confidence intervals within which the true value for the population can reasonably be assumed to fall. For example, for any given statistic calculated from the survey, the value of that statistic will fall within a range of plus or minus two times the standard error of that statistic in 95% of all possible samples of identical size and design.

If the sample of respondents had been selected as a simple random sample, it would have been possible to use straightforward formulae for calculating the variance of the statistic and consequently, sampling errors. However, the Youth Study sample is the result of a multi-stage stratified design, and consequently, it was necessary to use more complex formulae. The variance estimators that were used can be found in Cochran (1977) and Wolter (1985). The computer software used to calculate sampling errors for the Youth Study was programmed in STATA SE 8.2. This procedure uses the Taylor linearisation method for variance estimation for survey estimates that are means, proportions or ratios.

The Taylor linearisation method treats any percentage or average as a ratio estimate. Let $r = y/x$ be our sample estimate of the population ratio (mean or percentage) denoted by $R = Y/X$, where y represents the total sample value for variable Y, and x represents the total number of sample cases in the group or sub-group

under consideration. Using first order Taylor expansion, it can be shown that the approximate variance of distribution of r (square root of which is the standard error) is as below:

$$Var(r) = \frac{1-f}{x^2} \sum_{h=1}^{L} \left[\frac{n_h}{n_h - 1} \left(\sum_{i=1}^{n_h} z_{hi}^2 - \frac{z_h^2}{n_h} \right) \right]$$

in which $z_{hi} = y_{hi} - rx_{hi}$ and $z_h = y_h - rx_h$

where h represents the sampling stratum which varies from 1 to L,
n_h is the number of PSUs selected in the h^{th} stratum,
y_{hi} is the sum of the weighted values of variable Y in the i^{th} PSU in the h^{th} stratum,
x_{hi} is the sum of the weighted number of cases in the i^{th} PSU in the h^{th} stratum,
f is the overall sampling fraction, which is so small that it is ignored.

In addition to the standard error, the design effect (DEFT) for each estimate was also computed, which is defined as the ratio between the standard error using the given sample design and the standard error that would result if a simple random sample had been used (Kish, 1995) represented by the following simple formula:

$$DEFT = \sqrt{\frac{Var(r)}{Var_{srswr}(r_{srs})}}$$

where Var(r) is a design-based estimate of variance for the parameter r,
$Var_{srswr}(r_{srs})$ is an estimate of the variance for an estimator rsrs that would be obtained from a similar hypothetical survey conducted using simple random sampling (srs) with replacement (wr).

A DEFT value of 1.0 indicates that the sample design is as efficient as a simple random sample, while a value greater than 1.0 indicates the increase in the sampling error due to the use of a more complex and less statistically efficient design. Relative standard error (SE/R) and 95% confidence limits for each estimate were also computed.

Sampling errors for the Youth Study were calculated for selected variables and results are presented in this appendix for each sex and marital status sub-group of respondents for the state as a whole, and for those in urban and rural areas, respectively. For each variable, the type of statistic (mean, proportion or ratio) and the base population are given in Table B.1. Table B.2 presents the value of the statistic (R), its standard error (SE), the number of unweighted (N) and weighted (WN) cases, the design effect (DEFT), the relative standard error (SE/R) and the 95% confidence limits, for each variable.

Table B.1: List of selected variables for sampling errors, Bihar, 2007

Variables	Estimates	Base Population
Sex ratio (females per 1,000 males)	Ratio	*De jure* household population, all ages
Sex ratio (females per 1,000 males)	Ratio	*De jure* household population, aged 0–6
Currently married, including married but not yet cohabiting	Proportion	*De jure* household population, aged 20–24
No education	Proportion	*De jure* household population, aged 6 or above
No education	Proportion	Young men and women
Completed 12 or more years of education	Proportion	Young men and women
Ever worked in last 12 months	Proportion	Young men and women
Unemployed	Proportion	Young men and women in labour force
Discussed friendships with father	Proportion	Young men and women whose father was alive at the time of interview
Discussed friendships with mother	Proportion	Young men and women whose mother was alive at the time of interview
Independently makes decisions on choice of friends, spending money and buying clothes for oneself	Proportion	Young men and women
Can visit places outside village or neighbourhood unescorted	Proportion	Young men and women
Has savings of any amount	Proportion	Young men and women
Justified wife beating in at least one situation	Proportion	Young men and women
Awareness of sex- and pregnancy-related matters	Proportion	Young men and women
Correct specific knowledge of at least one contraceptive method	Proportion	Young men and women
Correct specific knowledge of condoms	Proportion	Young men and women
Ever heard of HIV/AIDS	Proportion	Young men and women
Comprehensive knowledge of HIV/AIDS	Proportion	Young men and women
Ever heard of STIs other than HIV	Proportion	Young men and women
Correct knowledge of the conditions under which abortion is legal	Proportion	Young men and women
Ever received family life or sex education	Proportion	Young men and women
Ever had an opposite-sex romantic partner	Proportion	Young men and women
Ever had sex with an opposite-sex romantic partner	Proportion	Young men and women
Ever had pre-marital sex	Proportion	Young men and women
Used condom consistently in pre-marital relations	Proportion	Young men and women who reported pre-marital sex in face-to-face interview
Ever communicated with spouse on contraception	Proportion	Married young men and women who had begun cohabiting
Husband ever forced wife to have sex	Proportion	Married young men and women who had begun cohabiting
Husband ever perpetrated physical violence on wife	Proportion	Married young men and women who had begun cohabiting
Husband ever perpetrated physical violence on wife in last 12 months	Proportion	Married young men and women who had begun cohabiting
Currently using any modern contraceptive method	Proportion	Married young men and women who had begun cohabiting

Variables	Estimates	Base Population
First delivery in a health institution	Proportion	Married young men and women whose first pregnancy outcome was a live or still birth
Mean number of children ever born	Mean	Married young men and women who had begun cohabiting
Mean number of children surviving	Mean	Married young men and women who had begun cohabiting
Mean ideal number of children	Mean	Married young men and women who had begun cohabiting and gave a numeric response
Experienced 3 or more symptoms or behaviours suggestive of mental health disorders in the month preceding the interview	Proportion	Young men and women
Ever consumed alcohol	Proportion	Young men and women
Participated in a government-/NGO-sponsored programme in the 3 years preceding the interview	Proportion	Young men and women
Voted in last election	Proportion	Young men and women, aged 20 or above

Table B.2: Sampling errors, Bihar, 2007

Variable/ respondent category	Value (R)	Standard error (SE)	Number of cases		Design effect (DEFT)	Relative standard error (SE/R)	95% Confidence limits	
			Unweighted (N)	Weighted (WN)			Lower	Upper
Sex ratio (females per 1,000 males, *de jure* household population, all ages)								
Combined	1.0430	0.0086	78,553	75,347	2.0601	0.0083	1.0260	1.0599
Urban	0.9265	0.0092	32,141	7,140	1.5658	0.0099	0.9085	0.9446
Rural	1.0552	0.0096	46,412	68,211	1.7668	0.0091	1.0364	1.0740
Sex ratio (females per 1,000 males, *de jure* household population, aged 0–6)								
Combined	0.9351	0.0134	15,845	17,093	1.3105	0.0143	0.9088	0.9615
Urban	0.9007	0.0194	5,257	1,169	1.0791	0.0215	0.8626	0.9388
Rural	0.9377	0.0143	10,588	15,924	1.1061	0.0153	0.9095	0.9659
Currently married, including married but not yet cohabiting (*de jure* household population, aged 20–24)								
Combined								
Male	0.4796	0.0150	5,364	4,251	2.1953	0.0312	0.4502	0.5091
Female	0.9009	0.0077	7,083	6,868	2.1679	0.0085	0.8857	0.9161
Urban								
Male	0.2262	0.0125	2,737	605	1.5681	0.0554	0.2015	0.2509
Female	0.6710	0.0169	2,888	639	1.9305	0.0252	0.6378	0.7043
Rural								
Male	0.5217	0.0172	2,627	3,646	1.7683	0.0330	0.4878	0.5557
Female	0.9245	0.0083	4,195	6,229	2.0324	0.0090	0.9082	0.9408
No education (*de jure* household population, aged 6 or above)								
Combined								
Male	0.3950	0.0087	65,297	60,944	4.5693	0.0221	0.3778	0.4122
Female	0.6452	0.0082	65,392	65,199	4.3576	0.0126	0.6291	0.6612
Urban								
Male	0.2250	0.0106	27,775	6,167	4.2197	0.0470	0.2042	0.2458
Female	0.3866	0.0139	25,760	5,731	4.5888	0.0360	0.3592	0.4140
Rural								
Male	0.4141	0.0097	37,522	54,780	3.8127	0.0234	0.3950	0.4332
Female	0.6701	0.0089	39,632	59,470	3.7543	0.0132	0.6527	0.6876

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Table B.2: (Cont'd)

Variable/ respondent category	Value (R)	Standard error (SE)	Number of cases		Design effect (DEFT)	Relative standard error (SE/R)	95% Confidence limits	
			Unweighted (N)	Weighted (WN)			Lower	Upper
No education (young men and women)								
Combined								
M (15–24)	0.1608	0.0157	1,942	1,964	1.8811	0.0975	0.1299	0.1917
W (15–24)	0.5101	0.0196	5,529	5,529	2.9093	0.0383	0.4716	0.5486
MM (15–29)	0.2935	0.0244	1,115	1,115	1.7897	0.0832	0.2454	0.3416
MW (15–24)	0.6408	0.0186	2,341	2,341	1.8711	0.0290	0.6042	0.6773
UM (15–24)	0.1172	0.0157	1,492	1,492	1.8793	0.1336	0.0864	0.1480
UW (15–24)	0.2816	0.0208	3,188	3,188	2.6113	0.0739	0.2406	0.3226
Urban								
M (15–24)	0.1044	0.0128	1,039	279	1.3444	0.1222	0.0793	0.1295
W (15–24)	0.2226	0.0199	2,581	637	2.4354	0.0896	0.1833	0.2618
MM (15–29)	0.2068	0.0226	547	92	1.3029	0.1092	0.1624	0.2513
MW (15–24)	0.3619	0.0237	1,136	142	1.6589	0.0654	0.3153	0.4085
UM (15–24)	0.0876	0.0125	833	245	1.2749	0.1426	0.0630	0.1122
UW (15–24)	0.1221	0.0186	1,445	494	2.1587	0.1523	0.0855	0.1587
Rural								
M (15–24)	0.1702	0.0181	903	1,685	1.4488	0.1065	0.1345	0.2059
W (15–24)	0.5475	0.0215	2,948	4,893	2.3445	0.0393	0.5052	0.5898
MM (15–29)	0.3013	0.0264	568	1,023	1.3707	0.0877	0.2493	0.3533
MW (15–24)	0.6588	0.0194	1,205	2,199	1.4200	0.0295	0.6206	0.6970
UM (15–24)	0.1230	0.0186	659	1,247	1.4528	0.1513	0.0864	0.1596
UW (15–24)	0.3109	0.0245	1,743	2,694	2.2121	0.0789	0.2626	0.3592
Completed 12 or more years of education (young men and women)								
Combined								
M (15–24)	0.1218	0.0110	1,942	1,964	1.4759	0.0899	0.1003	0.1434
W (15–24)	0.0453	0.0047	5,529	5,529	1.6810	0.1038	0.0360	0.0545
MM (15–29)	0.1169	0.0177	1,115	1,115	1.8407	0.1516	0.0820	0.1517
MW (15–24)	0.0256	0.0040	2,341	2,341	1.2144	0.1549	0.0178	0.0334
UM (15–24)	0.1278	0.0118	1,492	1,492	1.3663	0.0925	0.1045	0.1510
UW (15–24)	0.0715	0.0079	3,188	3,188	1.7287	0.1104	0.0560	0.0870
Urban								
M (15–24)	0.2497	0.0178	1,039	279	1.3225	0.0712	0.2147	0.2846
W (15–24)	0.1973	0.0152	2,581	637	1.9425	0.0771	0.1673	0.2273
MM (15–29)	0.2273	0.0199	547	92	1.1113	0.0877	0.1881	0.2666
MW (15–24)	0.1200	0.0139	1,136	142	1.4399	0.1157	0.0927	0.1474
UM (15–24)	0.2611	0.0191	833	245	1.2542	0.0731	0.2235	0.2987
UW (15–24)	0.2530	0.0176	1,445	494	1.5353	0.0694	0.2184	0.2876
Rural								
M (15–24)	0.1006	0.0121	903	1,685	1.2067	0.1201	0.0768	0.1244
W (15–24)	0.0255	0.0042	2,948	4,893	1.4383	0.1639	0.0173	0.0337
MM (15–29)	0.1069	0.0191	568	1,023	1.4754	0.1791	0.0692	0.1446
MW (15–24)	0.0195	0.0040	1,205	2,199	1.0042	0.2053	0.0116	0.0274
UM (15–24)	0.1016	0.0134	659	1,247	1.1341	0.1314	0.0753	0.1279
UW (15–24)	0.0382	0.0078	1,743	2,694	1.6898	0.2032	0.0229	0.0535

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Table B.2: (Cont'd)

Variable/ respondent category	Value (R)	Standard error (SE)	Number of cases		Design effect (DEFT)	Relative standard error (SE/R)	95% Confidence limits	
			Unweighted (N)	Weighted (WN)			Lower	Upper
Ever worked in last 12 months (young men and women)								
Combined								
M (15–24)	0.7269	0.0178	1,942	1,964	1.7565	0.0244	0.6919	0.7618
W (15–24)	0.3680	0.0182	5,529	5,529	2.8094	0.0495	0.3321	0.4039
MM (15–29)	0.9678	0.0064	1,115	1,115	1.2011	0.0066	0.9553	0.9803
MW (15–24)	0.3803	0.0224	2,341	2,341	2.2323	0.0589	0.3362	0.4244
UM (15–24)	0.6435	0.0214	1,492	1,492	1.7231	0.0332	0.6014	0.6856
UW (15–24)	0.3601	0.0231	3,188	3,188	2.7129	0.0641	0.3147	0.4055
Urban								
M (15–24)	0.5866	0.0212	1,039	279	1.3867	0.0361	0.5449	0.6283
W (15–24)	0.1509	0.0131	2,581	637	1.8554	0.0867	0.1251	0.1766
MM (15–29)	0.9449	0.0108	547	92	1.1053	0.0114	0.9236	0.9661
MW (15–24)	0.1236	0.0126	1,136	142	1.2936	0.1022	0.0988	0.1485
UM (15–24)	0.5374	0.0228	833	245	1.3165	0.0423	0.4926	0.5822
UW (15–24)	0.1705	0.0184	1,445	494	1.8643	0.1082	0.1342	0.2068
Rural								
M (15–24)	0.7501	0.0200	903	1,685	1.3868	0.0267	0.7108	0.7895
W (15–24)	0.3963	0.0202	2,948	4,893	2.2401	0.0509	0.3565	0.4360
MM (15–29)	0.9698	0.0068	568	1,023	0.9513	0.0070	0.9564	0.9833
MW (15–24)	0.3970	0.0236	1,205	2,199	1.6724	0.0594	0.3505	0.4434
UM (15–24)	0.6643	0.0249	659	1,247	1.3551	0.0376	0.6152	0.7134
UW (15–24)	0.3949	0.0267	1,743	2,694	2.2830	0.0677	0.3422	0.4475
Unemployed (young men and women in labour force)								
Combined								
M (15–24)	0.2246	0.0221	1,126	1,137	1.7765	0.0984	0.1811	0.2682
W (15–24)	0.3573	0.0328	1,029	1,224	2.1928	0.0917	0.2928	0.4219
MM (15–29)	0.0974	0.0167	1,002	993	1.7825	0.1715	0.0645	0.1303
MW (15–24)	0.3449	0.0368	487	583	1.7064	0.1067	0.2725	0.4174
UM (15–24)	0.2877	0.0275	740	719	1.6523	0.0956	0.2335	0.3419
UW (15–24)	0.3766	0.0392	542	550	1.8839	0.1042	0.2993	0.4539
Urban								
M (15–24)	0.2143	0.0190	611	157	1.1428	0.0886	0.1770	0.2517
W (15–24)	0.5816	0.0392	419	103	1.6243	0.0674	0.5044	0.6587
MM (15–29)	0.0688	0.0151	497	84	1.3282	0.2193	0.0391	0.0986
MW (15–24)	0.6770	0.0400	181	22	1.1477	0.0591	0.5982	0.7557
UM (15–24)	0.2483	0.0215	432	126	1.0353	0.0868	0.2059	0.2907
UW (15–24)	0.5167	0.0485	238	82	1.4950	0.0939	0.4211	0.6122
Rural								
M (15–24)	0.2263	0.0255	515	980	1.3804	0.1126	0.1761	0.2764
W (15–24)	0.3367	0.0353	610	1,120	1.8429	0.1048	0.2672	0.4061
MM (15–29)	0.1000	0.0182	505	910	1.3609	0.1819	0.0642	0.1358
MW (15–24)	0.3317	0.0379	306	561	1.4053	0.1142	0.2571	0.4063
UM (15–24)	0.2961	0.0330	308	592	1.2679	0.1116	0.2311	0.3612
UW (15–24)	0.3520	0.0453	304	468	1.6503	0.1286	0.2629	0.4412

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Table B.2: (Cont'd)

Variable/ respondent category	Value (R)	Standard error (SE)	Number of cases		Design effect (DEFT)	Relative standard error (SE/R)	95% Confidence limits	
			Unweighted (N)	Weighted (WN)			Lower	Upper
Discussed friendships with father (young men and women whose father was alive at the time of interview)								
Combined								
M (15–24)	0.5498	0.0206	1,704	1,755	1.7104	0.0375	0.5092	0.5904
W (15–24)	0.2329	0.0119	4,973	4,907	1.9797	0.0510	0.2095	0.2563
MM (15–29)	0.5589	0.0267	878	895	1.5926	0.0478	0.5063	0.6114
MW (15–24)	0.1885	0.0143	2,012	2,019	1.6352	0.0757	0.1604	0.2166
UM (15–24)	0.5607	0.0216	1,332	1,351	1.5845	0.0384	0.5183	0.6031
UW (15–24)	0.2992	0.0148	2,961	2,981	1.7604	0.0495	0.2700	0.3284
Urban								
M (15–24)	0.5897	0.0235	890	240	1.4234	0.0398	0.5434	0.6359
W (15–24)	0.4009	0.0166	2,298	567	1.6206	0.0413	0.3683	0.4335
MM (15–29)	0.5185	0.0281	421	71	1.1508	0.0541	0.4632	0.5737
MW (15–24)	0.3017	0.0167	973	122	1.1311	0.0552	0.2689	0.3345
UM (15–24)	0.6001	0.0243	728	213	1.3397	0.0406	0.5521	0.6480
UW (15–24)	0.4678	0.0210	1,325	452	1.5348	0.0450	0.4264	0.5092
Rural								
M (15–24)	0.5434	0.0236	814	1,514	1.3502	0.0434	0.4970	0.5899
W (15–24)	0.2110	0.0129	2,675	4,340	1.6404	0.0613	0.1855	0.2365
MM (15–29)	0.5624	0.0289	457	824	1.2437	0.0514	0.5055	0.6192
MW (15–24)	0.1812	0.0151	1,039	1,897	1.2630	0.0833	0.1515	0.2110
UM (15–24)	0.5533	0.0252	604	1,138	1.2438	0.0455	0.5038	0.6029
UW (15–24)	0.2691	0.0165	1,636	2,528	1.5068	0.0614	0.2365	0.3016
Discussed friendships with mother (young men and women whose mother was alive at the time of interview)								
Combined								
M (15–24)	0.5541	0.0210	1,819	1,844	1.8001	0.0379	0.5128	0.5955
W (15–24)	0.6790	0.0150	5,172	5,108	2.3056	0.0220	0.6495	0.7084
MM (15–29)	0.5353	0.0258	968	959	1.6098	0.0482	0.4845	0.5862
MW (15–24)	0.6366	0.0190	2,121	2,117	1.8177	0.0298	0.5992	0.6740
UM (15–24)	0.5720	0.0233	1,417	1,424	1.7689	0.0407	0.5263	0.6178
UW (15–24)	0.7464	0.0159	3,051	3,060	2.0140	0.0213	0.7152	0.7777
Urban								
M (15–24)	0.6051	0.0232	971	262	1.4754	0.0383	0.5595	0.6506
W (15–24)	0.7997	0.0153	2,409	595	1.8801	0.0192	0.7695	0.8299
MM (15–29)	0.5280	0.0247	482	81	1.0837	0.0467	0.4795	0.5766
MW (15–24)	0.7348	0.0222	1,031	129	1.6128	0.0302	0.6911	0.7785
UM (15–24)	0.6185	0.0244	787	231	1.4076	0.0394	0.5705	0.6665
UW (15–24)	0.8443	0.0141	1,378	471	1.4463	0.0167	0.8164	0.8721
Rural								
M (15–24)	0.5457	0.0241	848	1,582	1.4077	0.0441	0.4983	0.5931
W (15–24)	0.6630	0.0167	2,763	4,513	1.8518	0.0251	0.6303	0.6958
MM (15–29)	0.5360	0.0281	486	878	1.2412	0.0524	0.4807	0.5913
MW (15–24)	0.6303	0.0201	1,090	1,988	1.3749	0.0319	0.5907	0.6698
UM (15–24)	0.5630	0.0273	630	1,193	1.3798	0.0485	0.5093	0.6168
UW (15–24)	0.7286	0.0185	1,673	2,589	1.6986	0.0254	0.6922	0.7650

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Table B.2: (Cont'd)

Variable/ respondent category	Value (R)	Standard error (SE)	Number of cases		Design effect (DEFT)	Relative standard error (SE/R)	95% Confidence limits	
			Unweighted (N)	Weighted (WN)			Lower	Upper
Independently makes decisions about choice of friends, spending money and buying clothes for oneself (young men and women)								
Combined								
M (15–24)	0.4605	0.0138	1,942	1,964	1.2157	0.0299	0.4334	0.4876
W (15–24)	0.2447	0.0092	5,529	5,529	1.5869	0.0375	0.2266	0.2627
MM (15–29)	0.7334	0.0180	1,115	1,115	1.3583	0.0245	0.6980	0.7688
MW (15–24)	0.2473	0.0129	2,341	2,341	1.4412	0.0520	0.2220	0.2726
UM (15–24)	0.3825	0.0163	1,492	1,492	1.2989	0.0427	0.3503	0.4147
UW (15–24)	0.2273	0.0108	3,188	3,188	1.4570	0.0476	0.2060	0.2486
Urban								
M (15–24)	0.5571	0.0168	1,039	279	1.0909	0.0302	0.5240	0.5902
W (15–24)	0.4102	0.0172	2,581	637	1.7752	0.0419	0.3763	0.4440
MM (15–29)	0.7367	0.0232	547	92	1.2328	0.0315	0.6909	0.7824
MW (15–24)	0.3477	0.0198	1,136	142	1.3973	0.0568	0.3088	0.3866
UM (15–24)	0.5328	0.0178	833	245	1.0301	0.0334	0.4977	0.5679
UW (15–24)	0.4552	0.0182	1,445	494	1.3907	0.0400	0.4194	0.4911
Rural								
M (15–24)	0.4445	0.0156	903	1,685	0.9451	0.0352	0.4137	0.4753
W (15–24)	0.2231	0.0097	2,948	4,893	1.2663	0.0435	0.2040	0.2423
MM (15–29)	0.7331	0.0195	568	1,023	1.0498	0.0266	0.6947	0.7715
MW (15–24)	0.2409	0.0136	1,205	2,199	1.1030	0.0564	0.2141	0.2676
UM (15–24)	0.3531	0.0186	659	1,247	0.9987	0.0527	0.3164	0.3897
UW (15–24)	0.1855	0.0113	1,743	2,694	1.2160	0.0610	0.1632	0.2078
Can visit any place outside village or neighbourhood unescorted (young men and women)								
Combined								
W (15–24)	0.0954	0.0071	5,529	5,529	1.7901	0.0742	0.0814	0.1093
MW (15–24)	0.0979	0.0089	2,341	2,341	1.4529	0.0912	0.0803	0.1154
UM (15–24)	0.8583	0.0146	1,492	1,492	1.6147	0.0170	0.8296	0.8870
UW (15–24)	0.0827	0.0085	3,188	3,188	1.7392	0.1026	0.0660	0.0994
Urban								
W (15–24)	0.2003	0.0143	2,581	637	1.8118	0.0713	0.1722	0.2284
MW (15–24)	0.1331	0.0131	1,136	142	1.3017	0.0986	0.1073	0.1589
UM (15–24)	0.8686	0.0138	833	245	1.1755	0.0158	0.8415	0.8957
UW (15–24)	0.2488	0.0193	1,445	494	1.6953	0.0775	0.2108	0.2867
Rural								
W (15–24)	0.0817	0.0075	2,948	4,893	1.4946	0.0923	0.0669	0.0966
MW (15–24)	0.0956	0.0095	1,205	2,199	1.1170	0.0990	0.0769	0.1142
UM (15–24)	0.8563	0.0172	659	1,247	1.2608	0.0201	0.8223	0.8902
UW (15–24)	0.0523	0.0085	1,743	2,694	1.5960	0.1628	0.0355	0.0690

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Table B.2: (Cont'd)

Variable/ respondent category	Value (R)	Standard error (SE)	Number of cases		Design effect (DEFT)	Relative standard error (SE/R)	95% Confidence limits	
			Unweighted (N)	Weighted (WN)			Lower	Upper
Has savings of any amount (young men and women)								
Combined								
M (15–24)	0.1948	0.0169	1,942	1,964	1.8818	0.0868	0.1615	0.2281
W (15–24)	0.4434	0.0183	5,529	5,529	2.7462	0.0414	0.4072	0.4795
MM (15–29)	0.3035	0.0270	1,115	1,115	1.9579	0.0889	0.2504	0.3566
MW (15–24)	0.4519	0.0228	2,341	2,341	2.2173	0.0505	0.4070	0.4968
UM (15–24)	0.1644	0.0152	1,492	1,492	1.5802	0.0922	0.1346	0.1943
UW (15–24)	0.4183	0.0179	3,188	3,188	2.0471	0.0428	0.3831	0.4535
Urban								
M (15–24)	0.2359	0.0214	1,039	279	1.6241	0.0907	0.1938	0.2781
W (15–24)	0.5638	0.0232	2,581	637	2.3782	0.0412	0.5181	0.6095
MM (15–29)	0.3267	0.0279	547	92	1.3905	0.0854	0.2717	0.3816
MW (15–24)	0.5599	0.0267	1,136	142	1.8139	0.0477	0.5073	0.6125
UM (15–24)	0.2269	0.0227	833	245	1.5663	0.1002	0.1821	0.2716
UW (15–24)	0.5666	0.0250	1,445	494	1.9194	0.0442	0.5173	0.6159
Rural								
M (15–24)	0.1880	0.0195	903	1,685	1.4970	0.1036	0.1496	0.2263
W (15–24)	0.4277	0.0204	2,948	4,893	2.2374	0.0477	0.3876	0.4678
MM (15–29)	0.3014	0.0293	568	1,023	1.5195	0.0972	0.2437	0.3590
MW (15–24)	0.4449	0.0242	1,205	2,199	1.6868	0.0543	0.3974	0.4925
UM (15–24)	0.1522	0.0177	659	1,247	1.2618	0.1161	0.1174	0.1870
UW (15–24)	0.3911	0.0206	1,743	2,694	1.7659	0.0528	0.3505	0.4318
Justified wife beating in at least one situation (young men and women)								
Combined								
M (15–24)	0.4427	0.0189	1,942	1,964	1.6806	0.0428	0.4054	0.4800
W (15–24)	0.5774	0.0156	5,529	5,529	2.3433	0.0270	0.5467	0.6080
MM (15–29)	0.4654	0.0232	1,115	1,115	1.5555	0.0500	0.4196	0.5112
MW (15–24)	0.6050	0.0190	2,341	2,341	1.8850	0.0315	0.5675	0.6425
UM (15–24)	0.4418	0.0217	1,492	1,492	1.6876	0.0491	0.3990	0.4845
UW (15–24)	0.5334	0.0162	3,188	3,188	1.8365	0.0304	0.5014	0.5653
Urban								
M (15–24)	0.3875	0.0185	1,039	279	1.2215	0.0477	0.3511	0.4239
W (15–24)	0.4610	0.0267	2,581	637	2.7208	0.0579	0.4084	0.5135
MM (15–29)	0.4263	0.0262	547	92	1.2376	0.0614	0.3747	0.4779
MW (15–24)	0.5197	0.0268	1,136	142	1.8059	0.0515	0.4670	0.5724
UM (15–24)	0.3864	0.0195	833	245	1.1536	0.0504	0.3480	0.4247
UW (15–24)	0.4186	0.0300	1,445	494	2.3098	0.0716	0.3596	0.4776
Rural								
M (15–24)	0.4519	0.0218	903	1,685	1.3168	0.0483	0.4089	0.4948
W (15–24)	0.5925	0.0171	2,948	4,893	1.8931	0.0289	0.5588	0.6263
MM (15–29)	0.4689	0.0253	568	1,023	1.2056	0.0539	0.4192	0.5187
MW (15–24)	0.6105	0.0202	1,205	2,199	1.4371	0.0331	0.5707	0.6502
UM (15–24)	0.4526	0.0256	659	1,247	1.3178	0.0565	0.4023	0.5030
UW (15–24)	0.5544	0.0182	1,743	2,694	1.5321	0.0329	0.5185	0.5904

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Table B.2: (Cont'd)

Variable/ respondent category	Value (R)	Standard error (SE)	Number of cases		Design effect (DEFT)	Relative standard error (SE/R)	95% Confidence limits	
			Unweighted (N)	Weighted (WN)			Lower	Upper
Awareness of sex- and pregnancy-related matters (young men and women)								
Combined								
M (15–24)	0.0366	0.0050	1,942	1,964	1.1820	0.1376	0.0267	0.0465
W (15–24)	0.0211	0.0030	5,529	5,529	1.5527	0.1421	0.0152	0.0271
MM (15–29)	0.0667	0.0099	1,115	1,115	1.3191	0.1479	0.0473	0.0861
MW (15–24)	0.0270	0.0046	2,341	2,341	1.3622	0.1691	0.0180	0.0360
UM (15–24)	0.0282	0.0045	1,492	1,492	1.0495	0.1595	0.0194	0.0371
UW (15–24)	0.0082	0.0018	3,188	3,188	1.1007	0.2150	0.0047	0.0116
Urban								
M (15–24)	0.0613	0.0096	1,039	279	1.2849	0.1561	0.0424	0.0801
W (15–24)	0.0485	0.0052	2,581	637	1.2261	0.1069	0.0383	0.0587
MM (15–29)	0.1343	0.0154	547	92	1.0528	0.1144	0.1041	0.1646
MW (15–24)	0.0808	0.0098	1,136	142	1.2165	0.1218	0.0614	0.1002
UM (15–24)	0.0551	0.0102	833	245	1.2892	0.1851	0.0350	0.0751
UW (15–24)	0.0253	0.0050	1,445	494	1.2161	0.1987	0.0154	0.0352
Rural								
M (15–24)	0.0325	0.0056	903	1,685	0.9498	0.1725	0.0215	0.0436
W (15–24)	0.0176	0.0033	2,948	4,893	1.3689	0.1885	0.0111	0.0241
MM (15–29)	0.0606	0.0106	568	1,023	1.0586	0.1751	0.0397	0.0815
MW (15–24)	0.0235	0.0048	1,205	2,199	1.0988	0.2041	0.0141	0.0329
UM (15–24)	0.0230	0.0049	659	1,247	0.8448	0.2148	0.0133	0.0327
UW (15–24)	0.0050	0.0018	1,743	2,694	1.0582	0.3570	0.0015	0.0085
Correct specific knowledge of at least one contraceptive method (young men and women)								
Combined								
M (15–24)	0.6507	0.0232	1,942	1,964	2.1437	0.0356	0.6051	0.6964
W (15–24)	0.6221	0.0128	5,529	5,529	1.9680	0.0206	0.5969	0.6474
MM (15–29)	0.7711	0.0237	1,115	1,115	1.8836	0.0308	0.7244	0.8177
MW (15–24)	0.7156	0.0166	2,341	2,341	1.7834	0.0232	0.6828	0.7483
UM (15–24)	0.6161	0.0253	1,492	1,492	2.0105	0.0411	0.5663	0.6660
UW (15–24)	0.4375	0.0166	3,188	3,188	1.8850	0.0379	0.4049	0.4701
Urban								
M (15–24)	0.7167	0.0205	1,039	279	1.4631	0.0286	0.6764	0.7570
W (15–24)	0.7136	0.0131	2,581	637	1.4698	0.0183	0.6878	0.7393
MM (15–29)	0.8741	0.0165	547	92	1.1635	0.0189	0.8415	0.9066
MW (15–24)	0.8527	0.0149	1,136	142	1.4205	0.0175	0.8232	0.8821
UM (15–24)	0.6942	0.0215	833	245	1.3472	0.0310	0.6519	0.7366
UW (15–24)	0.6133	0.0205	1,445	494	1.6013	0.0335	0.5729	0.6537
Rural								
M (15–24)	0.6398	0.0268	903	1,685	1.6789	0.0419	0.5870	0.6926
W (15–24)	0.6102	0.0143	2,948	4,893	1.5915	0.0234	0.5821	0.6384
MM (15–29)	0.7618	0.0258	568	1,023	1.4397	0.0338	0.7111	0.8125
MW (15–24)	0.7067	0.0175	1,205	2,199	1.3356	0.0248	0.6722	0.7412
UM (15–24)	0.6008	0.0301	659	1,247	1.5741	0.0500	0.5417	0.6600
UW (15–24)	0.4052	0.0190	1,743	2,694	1.6145	0.0469	0.3678	0.4426

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Table B.2: (Cont'd)

Variable/ respondent category	Value (R)	Standard error (SE)	Number of cases		Design effect (DEFT)	Relative standard error (SE/R)	95% Confidence limits	
			Unweighted (N)	Weighted (WN)			Lower	Upper
Correct specific knowledge of condoms (young men and women)								
Combined								
M (15–24)	0.6208	0.0240	1,942	1,964	2.1808	0.0387	0.5735	0.6681
W (15–24)	0.2988	0.0143	5,529	5,529	2.3172	0.0477	0.2707	0.3269
MM (15–29)	0.7351	0.0246	1,115	1,115	1.8643	0.0335	0.6866	0.7836
MW (15–24)	0.3635	0.0201	2,341	2,341	2.0244	0.0554	0.3239	0.4032
UM (15–24)	0.5870	0.0257	1,492	1,492	2.0193	0.0439	0.5363	0.6377
UW (15–24)	0.1670	0.0126	3,188	3,188	1.9041	0.0753	0.1423	0.1918
Urban								
M (15–24)	0.7019	0.0211	1,039	279	1.4844	0.0300	0.6604	0.7433
W (15–24)	0.4203	0.0179	2,581	637	1.8410	0.0426	0.3851	0.4556
MM (15–29)	0.8641	0.0174	547	92	1.1839	0.0201	0.8299	0.8983
MW (15–24)	0.5883	0.0235	1,136	142	1.6121	0.0400	0.5420	0.6347
UM (15–24)	0.6796	0.0221	833	245	1.3635	0.0325	0.6362	0.7230
UW (15–24)	0.2992	0.0219	1,445	494	1.8179	0.0732	0.2561	0.3423
Rural								
M (15–24)	0.6073	0.0278	903	1,685	1.7089	0.0458	0.5526	0.6621
W (15–24)	0.2830	0.0158	2,948	4,893	1.9094	0.0560	0.2518	0.3142
MM (15–29)	0.7235	0.0268	568	1,023	1.4251	0.0370	0.6708	0.7762
MW (15–24)	0.3490	0.0212	1,205	2,199	1.5405	0.0606	0.3073	0.3906
UM (15–24)	0.5689	0.0305	659	1,247	1.5821	0.0537	0.5087	0.6290
UW (15–24)	0.1428	0.0142	1,743	2,694	1.6984	0.0997	0.1147	0.1708
Ever heard of HIV/AIDS (young men and women)								
Combined								
M (15–24)	0.8732	0.0137	1,942	1,964	1.8184	0.0157	0.8461	0.9002
W (15–24)	0.4694	0.0171	5,529	5,529	2.5524	0.0365	0.4356	0.5031
MM (15–29)	0.8647	0.0175	1,115	1,115	1.7105	0.0203	0.8302	0.8992
MW (15–24)	0.4265	0.0192	2,341	2,341	1.8747	0.0449	0.3888	0.4643
UM (15–24)	0.8767	0.0154	1,492	1,492	1.8055	0.0175	0.8464	0.9070
UW (15–24)	0.5275	0.0207	3,188	3,188	2.3454	0.0393	0.4866	0.5683
Urban								
M (15–24)	0.9584	0.0090	1,039	279	1.4473	0.0094	0.9407	0.9760
W (15–24)	0.7928	0.0208	2,581	637	2.6082	0.0262	0.7519	0.8338
MM (15–29)	0.9516	0.0114	547	92	1.2461	0.0120	0.9291	0.9742
MW (15–24)	0.7093	0.0259	1,136	142	1.9232	0.0365	0.6583	0.7604
UM (15–24)	0.9606	0.0087	833	245	1.2908	0.0091	0.9434	0.9777
UW (15–24)	0.8530	0.0193	1,445	494	2.0660	0.0226	0.8151	0.8909
Rural								
M (15–24)	0.8591	0.0160	903	1,685	1.3788	0.0186	0.8276	0.8905
W (15–24)	0.4273	0.0183	2,948	4,893	2.0125	0.0429	0.3912	0.4634
MM (15–29)	0.8569	0.0192	568	1,023	1.3032	0.0224	0.8192	0.8946
MW (15–24)	0.4082	0.0200	1,205	2,199	1.4126	0.0490	0.3688	0.4476
UM (15–24)	0.8603	0.0183	659	1,247	1.3565	0.0213	0.8242	0.8964
UW (15–24)	0.4678	0.0238	1,743	2,694	1.9898	0.0509	0.4209	0.5146

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Table B.2: (Cont'd)

Variable/ respondent category	Value (R)	Standard error (SE)	Number of cases		Design effect (DEFT)	Relative standard error (SE/R)	95% Confidence limits	
			Unweighted (N)	Weighted (WN)			Lower	Upper
Comprehensive knowledge of HIV/AIDS (young men and women)								
Combined								
M (15–24)	0.2778	0.0149	1,942	1,964	1.4607	0.0535	0.2486	0.3070
W (15–24)	0.1538	0.0094	5,529	5,529	1.9299	0.0609	0.1353	0.1722
MM (15–29)	0.2700	0.0196	1,115	1,115	1.4749	0.0727	0.2314	0.3086
MW (15–24)	0.1318	0.0101	2,341	2,341	1.4417	0.0765	0.1120	0.1517
UM (15–24)	0.2759	0.0172	1,492	1,492	1.4856	0.0623	0.2420	0.3097
UW (15–24)	0.1800	0.0124	3,188	3,188	1.8238	0.0690	0.1555	0.2044
Urban								
M (15–24)	0.4192	0.0191	1,039	279	1.2488	0.0456	0.3816	0.4569
W (15–24)	0.3686	0.0202	2,581	637	2.1263	0.0548	0.3288	0.4083
MM (15–29)	0.4068	0.0240	547	92	1.1407	0.0589	0.3596	0.4540
MW (15–24)	0.3231	0.0241	1,136	142	1.7365	0.0746	0.2757	0.3706
UM (15–24)	0.4213	0.0210	833	245	1.2239	0.0497	0.3800	0.4625
UW (15–24)	0.4014	0.0225	1,445	494	1.7476	0.0562	0.3570	0.4458
Rural								
M (15–24)	0.2543	0.0168	903	1,685	1.1584	0.0660	0.2213	0.2874
W (15–24)	0.1258	0.0096	2,948	4,893	1.5739	0.0764	0.1069	0.1447
MM (15–29)	0.2577	0.0212	568	1,023	1.1543	0.0823	0.2159	0.2994
MW (15–24)	0.1194	0.0104	1,205	2,199	1.1120	0.0870	0.0990	0.1399
UM (15–24)	0.2474	0.0198	659	1,247	1.1770	0.0800	0.2084	0.2864
UW (15–24)	0.1393	0.0134	1,743	2,694	1.6152	0.0962	0.1130	0.1657
Ever heard of STIs other than HIV (young men and women)								
Combined								
M (15–24)	0.1140	0.0118	1,942	1,964	1.6367	0.1036	0.0908	0.1373
W (15–24)	0.1157	0.0110	5,529	5,529	2.5580	0.0951	0.0940	0.1373
MM (15–29)	0.1894	0.0210	1,115	1,115	1.7914	0.1110	0.1480	0.2308
MW (15–24)	0.1576	0.0163	2,341	2,341	2.1608	0.1033	0.1256	0.1897
UM (15–24)	0.1057	0.0120	1,492	1,492	1.5073	0.1136	0.0821	0.1293
UW (15–24)	0.0367	0.0043	3,188	3,188	1.2988	0.1178	0.0282	0.0452
Urban								
M (15–24)	0.1392	0.0117	1,039	279	1.0864	0.0839	0.1162	0.1622
W (15–24)	0.1004	0.0079	2,581	637	1.3307	0.0784	0.0849	0.1159
MM (15–29)	0.2421	0.0218	547	92	1.1873	0.0899	0.1993	0.2850
MW (15–24)	0.1436	0.0136	1,136	142	1.3078	0.0948	0.1168	0.1704
UM (15–24)	0.1283	0.0122	833	245	1.0495	0.0948	0.1043	0.1523
UW (15–24)	0.0692	0.0072	1,445	494	1.0784	0.1041	0.0550	0.0834
Rural								
M (15–24)	0.1098	0.0136	903	1,685	1.3080	0.1240	0.0830	0.1367
W (15–24)	0.1176	0.0124	2,948	4,893	2.0882	0.1053	0.0932	0.1420
MM (15–29)	0.1847	0.0229	568	1,023	1.4024	0.1238	0.1397	0.2297
MW (15–24)	0.1585	0.0173	1,205	2,199	1.6444	0.1092	0.1245	0.1926
UM (15–24)	0.1012	0.0141	659	1,247	1.2022	0.1396	0.0734	0.1291
UW (15–24)	0.0308	0.0049	1,743	2,694	1.1905	0.1601	0.0211	0.0405

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Table B.2: (Cont'd)

Variable/ respondent category	Value (R)	Standard error (SE)	Number of cases		Design effect (DEFT)	Relative standard error (SE/R)	95% Confidence limits	
			Unweighted (N)	Weighted (WN)			Lower	Upper
Correct knowledge of the conditions under which abortion is legal (young men and women)								
Combined								
M (15–24)	0.0636	0.0076	1,942	1,964	1.3765	0.1199	0.0486	0.0786
W (15–24)	0.0276	0.0035	5,529	5,529	1.5919	0.1270	0.0207	0.0346
MM (15–29)	0.0656	0.0100	1,115	1,115	1.3465	0.1523	0.0459	0.0853
MW (15–24)	0.0261	0.0049	2,341	2,341	1.4709	0.1856	0.0166	0.0357
UM (15–24)	0.0587	0.0081	1,492	1,492	1.3252	0.1375	0.0428	0.0745
UW (15–24)	0.0297	0.0043	3,188	3,188	1.4414	0.1459	0.0212	0.0382
Urban								
M (15–24)	0.0734	0.0119	1,039	279	1.4688	0.1620	0.0500	0.0968
W (15–24)	0.0384	0.0047	2,581	637	1.2476	0.1229	0.0291	0.0477
MM (15–29)	0.0692	0.0135	547	92	1.2436	0.1951	0.0426	0.0958
MW (15–24)	0.0373	0.0058	1,136	142	1.0316	0.1556	0.0258	0.0487
UM (15–24)	0.0727	0.0123	833	245	1.3672	0.1692	0.0485	0.0970
UW (15–24)	0.0392	0.0063	1,445	494	1.2417	0.1618	0.0267	0.0517
Rural								
M (15–24)	0.0620	0.0087	903	1,685	1.0788	0.1398	0.0449	0.0790
W (15–24)	0.0262	0.0039	2,948	4,893	1.3268	0.1489	0.0186	0.0339
MM (15–29)	0.0653	0.0108	568	1,023	1.0433	0.1658	0.0440	0.0866
MW (15–24)	0.0254	0.0051	1,205	2,199	1.1349	0.2025	0.0153	0.0356
UM (15–24)	0.0559	0.0093	659	1,247	1.0432	0.1672	0.0375	0.0743
UW (15–24)	0.0280	0.0050	1,743	2,694	1.2628	0.1784	0.0182	0.0378
Ever received family life or sex education (young men and women)								
Combined								
M (15–24)	0.0717	0.0073	1,942	1,964	1.2481	0.1019	0.0573	0.0861
W (15–24)	0.0250	0.0030	5,529	5,529	1.4329	0.1203	0.0191	0.0309
MM (15–29)	0.0386	0.0074	1,115	1,115	1.2834	0.1919	0.0240	0.0532
MW (15–24)	0.0092	0.0027	2,341	2,341	1.3597	0.2921	0.0039	0.0144
UM (15–24)	0.0829	0.0088	1,492	1,492	1.2319	0.1061	0.0655	0.1002
UW (15–24)	0.0508	0.0056	3,188	3,188	1.4439	0.1106	0.0397	0.0618
Urban								
M (15–24)	0.1065	0.0115	1,039	279	1.2033	0.1082	0.0838	0.1292
W (15–24)	0.0843	0.0098	2,581	637	1.7900	0.1161	0.0650	0.1036
MM (15–29)	0.0567	0.0105	547	92	1.0632	0.1855	0.0360	0.0775
MW (15–24)	0.0307	0.0063	1,136	142	1.2330	0.2058	0.0182	0.0431
UM (15–24)	0.1135	0.0128	833	245	1.1618	0.1126	0.0883	0.1386
UW (15–24)	0.1230	0.0138	1,445	494	1.6003	0.1125	0.0958	0.1502
Rural								
M (15–24)	0.0659	0.0082	903	1,685	0.9922	0.1243	0.0498	0.0821
W (15–24)	0.0173	0.0030	2,948	4,893	1.2585	0.1747	0.0113	0.0232
MM (15–29)	0.0370	0.0080	568	1,023	1.0103	0.2166	0.0212	0.0527
MW (15–24)	0.0078	0.0028	1,205	2,199	1.1122	0.3620	0.0022	0.0133
UM (15–24)	0.0768	0.0101	659	1,247	0.9729	0.1315	0.0570	0.0967
UW (15–24)	0.0375	0.0059	1,743	2,694	1.3033	0.1581	0.0258	0.0492

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Table B.2: (Cont'd)

Variable/ respondent category	Value (R)	Standard error (SE)	Number of cases		Design effect (DEFT)	Relative standard error (SE/R)	95% Confidence limits	
			Unweighted (N)	Weighted (WN)			Lower	Upper
Ever had an opposite-sex romantic partner (young men and women)								
Combined								
M (15–24)	0.1700	0.0119	1,942	1,964	1.4008	0.0703	0.1465	0.1935
W (15–24)	0.0493	0.0047	5,529	5,529	1.6176	0.0955	0.0401	0.0586
MM (15–29)	0.1677	0.0120	1,115	1,115	1.0727	0.0716	0.1441	0.1913
MW (15–24)	0.0363	0.0055	2,341	2,341	1.4241	0.1517	0.0254	0.0471
UM (15–24)	0.1596	0.0122	1,492	1,492	1.2848	0.0763	0.1357	0.1836
UW (15–24)	0.0712	0.0061	3,188	3,188	1.3353	0.0854	0.0592	0.0832
Urban								
M (15–24)	0.2107	0.0141	1,039	279	1.1125	0.0668	0.1830	0.2384
W (15–24)	0.0925	0.0065	2,581	637	1.1460	0.0707	0.0796	0.1054
MM (15–29)	0.1954	0.0165	547	92	0.9743	0.0846	0.1629	0.2280
MW (15–24)	0.0898	0.0089	1,136	142	1.0447	0.0987	0.0723	0.1072
UM (15–24)	0.2061	0.0147	833	245	1.0461	0.0712	0.1772	0.2350
UW (15–24)	0.0945	0.0082	1,445	494	1.0666	0.0869	0.0783	0.1106
Rural								
M (15–24)	0.1633	0.0137	903	1,685	1.1130	0.0839	0.1363	0.1902
W (15–24)	0.0437	0.0052	2,948	4,893	1.3717	0.1182	0.0336	0.0539
MM (15–29)	0.1652	0.0130	568	1,023	0.8335	0.0787	0.1396	0.1908
MW (15–24)	0.0328	0.0058	1,205	2,199	1.1242	0.1759	0.0215	0.0442
UM (15–24)	0.1505	0.0143	659	1,247	1.0223	0.0947	0.1225	0.1786
UW (15–24)	0.0669	0.0070	1,743	2,694	1.1772	0.1053	0.0530	0.0808
Ever had sex with an opposite-sex romantic partner (young men and women)								
Combined								
M (15–24)	0.0669	0.0083	1,942	1,964	1.4697	0.1245	0.0505	0.0834
W (15–24)	0.0139	0.0020	5,529	5,529	1.2482	0.1415	0.0100	0.0178
MM (15–29)	0.0808	0.0106	1,115	1,115	1.2936	0.1308	0.0600	0.1016
MW (15–24)	0.0116	0.0025	2,341	2,341	1.1284	0.2151	0.0067	0.0165
UM (15–24)	0.0617	0.0094	1,492	1,492	1.5117	0.1526	0.0432	0.0803
UW (15–24)	0.0183	0.0026	3,188	3,188	1.1034	0.1432	0.0131	0.0235
Urban								
M (15–24)	0.0397	0.0074	1,039	279	1.2285	0.1875	0.0251	0.0544
W (15–24)	0.0133	0.0026	2,581	637	1.1734	0.1992	0.0081	0.0185
MM (15–29)	0.0485	0.0095	547	92	1.0341	0.1961	0.0298	0.0672
MW (15–24)	0.0203	0.0044	1,136	142	1.0593	0.2183	0.0116	0.0291
UM (15–24)	0.0368	0.0076	833	245	1.1632	0.2064	0.0218	0.0517
UW (15–24)	0.0082	0.0026	1,445	494	1.0786	0.3123	0.0032	0.0132
Rural								
M (15–24)	0.0715	0.0096	903	1,685	1.1231	0.1348	0.0525	0.0904
W (15–24)	0.0140	0.0022	2,948	4,893	1.0148	0.1570	0.0097	0.0183
MM (15–29)	0.0837	0.0115	568	1,023	0.9862	0.1371	0.0611	0.1062
MW (15–24)	0.0111	0.0026	1,205	2,199	0.8764	0.2388	0.0059	0.0163
UM (15–24)	0.0666	0.0112	659	1,247	1.1479	0.1675	0.0447	0.0886
UW (15–24)	0.0201	0.0031	1,743	2,694	0.9078	0.1517	0.0141	0.0262

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Table B.2: (Cont'd)

Variable/ respondent category	Value (R)	Standard error (SE)	Number of cases		Design effect (DEFT)	Relative standard error (SE/R)	95% Confidence limits	
			Unweighted (N)	Weighted (WN)			Lower	Upper
Ever had pre-marital sex (young men and women)								
Combined								
M (15–24)	0.1393	0.0118	1,942	1,964	1.5062	0.0850	0.1160	0.1626
W (15–24)	0.0262	0.0034	5,529	5,529	1.5939	0.1308	0.0194	0.0329
MM (15–29)	0.1805	0.0154	1,115	1,115	1.3349	0.0852	0.1502	0.2108
MW (15–24)	0.0243	0.0042	2,341	2,341	1.3272	0.1739	0.0160	0.0326
UM (15–24)	0.1075	0.0107	1,492	1,492	1.3379	0.0998	0.0864	0.1286
UW (15–24)	0.0302	0.0043	3,188	3,188	1.4208	0.1427	0.0217	0.0386
Urban								
M (15–24)	0.1022	0.0118	1,039	279	1.2511	0.1151	0.0790	0.1253
W (15–24)	0.0211	0.0034	2,581	637	1.1923	0.1599	0.0145	0.0277
MM (15–29)	0.1626	0.0182	547	92	1.1549	0.1122	0.1267	0.1985
MW (15–24)	0.0282	0.0050	1,136	142	1.0230	0.1783	0.0183	0.0381
UM (15–24)	0.0804	0.0105	833	245	1.1136	0.1305	0.0598	0.1011
UW (15–24)	0.0160	0.0036	1,445	494	1.0886	0.2248	0.0089	0.0231
Rural								
M (15–24)	0.1455	0.0136	903	1,685	1.1602	0.0936	0.1187	0.1723
W (15–24)	0.0268	0.0038	2,948	4,893	1.2914	0.1433	0.0193	0.0344
MM (15–29)	0.1821	0.0167	568	1,023	1.0285	0.0915	0.1493	0.2149
MW (15–24)	0.0240	0.0045	1,205	2,199	1.0158	0.1865	0.0152	0.0329
UM (15–24)	0.1128	0.0127	659	1,247	1.0263	0.1122	0.0879	0.1377
UW (15–24)	0.0328	0.0050	1,743	2,694	1.1763	0.1532	0.0229	0.0426
Used condoms consistently in pre-marital relations (young men and women who reported pre-marital sex in face-to-face interview)								
Combined								
M (15–24)	0.0648	0.0193	206	238	1.1197	0.2971	0.0267	0.1028
W (15–24)	0.0194	0.0123	99	109	0.8811	0.6328	0.0000	0.0437
MM (15–29)	0.0439	0.0209	159	178	1.2848	0.4771	0.0025	0.0852
UM (15–24)	0.0983	0.0331	113	135	1.1748	0.3362	0.0330	0.1636
Ever communicated with spouse on contraception (married young men and women who had begun cohabiting)								
Combined								
MM (15–29)	0.3750	0.0220	1,072	1,072	1.4885	0.0587	0.3317	0.4184
MW (15–24)	0.7157	0.0164	2,237	2,202	1.7167	0.0229	0.6834	0.7479
Urban								
MM (15–29)	0.4603	0.0266	525	88	1.2231	0.0579	0.4079	0.5127
MW (15–24)	0.7976	0.0173	1,103	138	1.4280	0.0217	0.7635	0.8316
Rural								
MM (15–29)	0.3674	0.0239	547	984	1.1603	0.0652	0.3203	0.4145
MW (15–24)	0.7102	0.0174	1,134	2,064	1.2914	0.0245	0.6759	0.7445

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Table B.2: (Cont'd)

Variable/ respondent category	Value (R)	Standard error (SE)	Number of cases		Design effect (DEFT)	Relative standard error (SE/R)	95% Confidence limits	
			Unweighted (N)	Weighted (WN)			Lower	Upper
Husband ever forced wife to have sex (married young men and women who had begun cohabiting)								
Combined								
MM (15–29)	0.2481	0.0160	1,072	1,072	1.2104	0.0644	0.2167	0.2796
MW (15–24)	0.5374	0.0208	2,237	2,203	1.9704	0.0387	0.4965	0.5783
Urban								
MM (15–29)	0.2107	0.0184	525	88	1.0340	0.0874	0.1744	0.2470
MW (15–24)	0.4981	0.0212	1,102	138	1.4102	0.0427	0.4562	0.5399
Rural								
MM (15–29)	0.2515	0.0173	547	984	0.9336	0.0689	0.2174	0.2856
MW (15–24)	0.5400	0.0221	1,135	2,065	1.4931	0.0409	0.4965	0.5835
Husband ever perpetrated physical violence on wife (married young men and women who had begun cohabiting)								
Combined								
MM (15–29)	0.2965	0.0230	1,072	1,072	1.6457	0.0774	0.2513	0.3418
MW (15–24)	0.2974	0.0155	2,236	2,202	1.6040	0.0522	0.2668	0.3279
Urban								
MM (15–29)	0.2497	0.0240	525	88	1.2684	0.0960	0.2025	0.2970
MW (15–24)	0.2417	0.0161	1,102	138	1.2466	0.0666	0.2100	0.2733
Rural								
MM (15–29)	0.3007	0.0249	547	984	1.2684	0.0828	0.2517	0.3498
MW (15–24)	0.3011	0.0165	1,134	2,064	1.2094	0.0547	0.2686	0.3335
Husband ever perpetrated physical violence on wife in last 12 months (married young men and women who had begun cohabiting)								
Combined								
MM (15–29)	0.1865	0.0181	1,072	1,072	1.5231	0.0972	0.1508	0.2222
MW (15–24)	0.2362	0.0131	2,236	2,202	1.4538	0.0553	0.2105	0.2619
Urban								
MM (15–29)	0.1682	0.0199	525	88	1.2187	0.1184	0.1290	0.2074
MW (15–24)	0.1967	0.0159	1,102	138	1.3269	0.0808	0.1654	0.2280
Rural								
MM (15–29)	0.1882	0.0197	547	984	1.1759	0.1045	0.1495	0.2269
MW (15–24)	0.2388	0.0139	1,134	2,064	1.0954	0.0581	0.2115	0.2661
Currently using any modern contraceptive method (married young men and women who had begun cohabiting)								
Combined								
MM (15–29)	0.1093	0.0150	1,072	1,072	1.5706	0.1370	0.0799	0.1388
MW (15–24)	0.0869	0.0086	2,237	2,202	1.4476	0.0993	0.0699	0.1038
Urban								
MM (15–29)	0.1978	0.0193	525	88	1.1091	0.0976	0.1598	0.2358
MW (15–24)	0.1753	0.0124	1,103	138	1.0865	0.0710	0.1508	0.1998
Rural								
MM (15–29)	0.1014	0.0162	547	984	1.2574	0.1602	0.0694	0.1334
MW (15–24)	0.0810	0.0091	1,134	2,064	1.1245	0.1126	0.0630	0.0989

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Table B.2: (Cont'd)

Variable/ respondent category	Value (R)	Standard error (SE)	Number of cases		Design effect (DEFT)	Relative standard error (SE/R)	95% Confidence limits	
			Unweighted (N)	Weighted (WN)			Lower	Upper
First delivery in a health institution (married young men and women whose first pregnancy outcome was a live or still birth)								
Combined								
MM (15–29)	0.2296	0.0247	717	710	1.5742	0.1077	0.1809	0.2784
MW (15–24)	0.2485	0.0195	1,547	1,521	1.7788	0.0786	0.2100	0.2870
Urban								
MM (15–29)	0.3944	0.0331	356	60	1.2743	0.0838	0.3293	0.4595
MW (15–24)	0.5044	0.0290	765	95	1.6015	0.0574	0.4474	0.5614
Rural								
MM (15–29)	0.2145	0.0270	361	651	1.2490	0.1260	0.1613	0.2677
MW (15–24)	0.2314	0.0206	782	1,426	1.3643	0.0889	0.1909	0.2719
Mean number of children ever born (married young men and women who had begun cohabiting)								
Combined								
MM (15–29)	1.3321	0.0488	1,115	1,115	1.2907	0.0366	1.2360	1.4282
MW (15–24)	1.3676	0.0404	2,341	2,341	1.5355	0.0295	1.2881	1.4471
Urban								
MM (15–29)	1.2882	0.0585	547	92	1.1326	0.0454	1.1731	1.4033
MW (15–24)	1.4130	0.0411	1,136	142	1.1356	0.0291	1.3320	1.4939
Rural								
MM (15–29)	1.3361	0.0530	568	1,023	0.9950	0.0396	1.2319	1.4403
MW (15–24)	1.3647	0.0429	1,205	2,199	1.1672	0.0314	1.2802	1.4492
Mean number of children surviving (married young men and women who had begun cohabiting)								
Combined								
MM (15–29)	1.2421	0.0453	1,115	1,115	1.2499	0.0364	1.1531	1.3312
MW (15–24)	1.2639	0.0352	2,341	2,341	1.4396	0.0279	1.1946	1.3333
Urban								
MM (15–29)	1.2222	0.0562	547	92	1.1363	0.0460	1.1116	1.3328
MW (15–24)	1.3128	0.0362	1,136	142	1.0794	0.0276	1.2415	1.3840
Rural								
MM (15–29)	1.2439	0.0491	568	1,023	0.9631	0.0394	1.1474	1.3405
MW (15–24)	1.2608	0.0374	1,205	2,199	1.0938	0.0297	1.1871	1.3345
Mean ideal number of children (married young men and women who had begun cohabiting and gave a numeric response)								
Combined								
MM (15–29)	2.7199	0.0367	1,013	1,011	1.2649	0.0135	2.6476	2.7923
MW (15–24)	2.6821	0.0327	2,103	2,058	1.8581	0.0122	2.6177	2.7465
Urban								
MM (15–29)	2.4333	0.0395	497	84	1.1842	0.0162	2.3556	2.5109
MW (15–24)	2.3689	0.0343	1,045	131	1.5213	0.0145	2.3013	2.4364
Rural								
MM (15–29)	2.7458	0.0396	516	927	0.9619	0.0144	2.6678	2.8238
MW (15–24)	2.7033	0.0348	1,058	1,928	1.3987	0.0129	2.6349	2.7717

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Table B.2: (Cont'd)

Variable/ respondent category	Value (R)	Standard error (SE)	Number of cases		Design effect (DEFT)	Relative standard error (SE/R)	95% Confidence limits	
			Unweighted (N)	Weighted (WN)			Lower	Upper
Experienced 3 or more symptoms or behaviours suggestive of mental health disorders in the month preceding the interview (young men and women)								
Combined								
M (15–24)	0.1622	0.0145	1,942	1,964	1.7270	0.0891	0.1337	0.1906
W (15–24)	0.0872	0.0079	5,529	5,529	2.0818	0.0906	0.0717	0.1028
MM (15–29)	0.1735	0.0178	1,115	1,115	1.5679	0.1025	0.1384	0.2085
MW (15–24)	0.0897	0.0086	2,341	2,341	1.4485	0.0954	0.0729	0.1066
UM (15–24)	0.1685	0.0148	1,492	1,492	1.5219	0.0875	0.1395	0.1976
UW (15–24)	0.0830	0.0106	3,188	3,188	2.1638	0.1274	0.0622	0.1038
Urban								
M (15–24)	0.1665	0.0131	1,039	279	1.1371	0.0790	0.1406	0.1924
W (15–24)	0.0804	0.0079	2,581	637	1.4684	0.0977	0.0650	0.0959
MM (15–29)	0.1762	0.0176	547	92	1.0785	0.0998	0.1416	0.2108
MW (15–24)	0.0887	0.0111	1,136	142	1.3205	0.1256	0.0668	0.1106
UM (15–24)	0.1641	0.0139	833	245	1.0809	0.0846	0.1368	0.1914
UW (15–24)	0.0745	0.0085	1,445	494	1.2285	0.1140	0.0578	0.0912
Rural								
M (15–24)	0.1615	0.0167	903	1,685	1.3632	0.1034	0.1286	0.1944
W (15–24)	0.0881	0.0089	2,948	4,893	1.6989	0.1007	0.0707	0.1056
MM (15–29)	0.1732	0.0193	568	1,023	1.2158	0.1116	0.1352	0.2113
MW (15–24)	0.0898	0.0091	1,205	2,199	1.1025	0.1011	0.0719	0.1077
UM (15–24)	0.1694	0.0174	659	1,247	1.1922	0.1029	0.1351	0.2037
UW (15–24)	0.0846	0.0124	1,743	2,694	1.8647	0.1470	0.0601	0.1090
Ever consumed alcohol (young men and women)								
Combined								
M (15–24)	0.1671	0.0149	1,942	1,964	1.7635	0.0894	0.1377	0.1965
W (15–24)	0.0010	0.0006	5,529	5,529	1.2971	0.5493	0.0000	0.0021
MM (15–29)	0.3568	0.0231	1,115	1,115	1.6071	0.0646	0.3114	0.4022
MW (15–24)	0.0009	0.0008	2,341	2,341	1.2618	0.8732	0.0000	0.0024
UM (15–24)	0.1079	0.0127	1,492	1,492	1.5862	0.1181	0.0828	0.1329
UW (15–24)	0.0012	0.0007	3,188	3,188	1.1832	0.6061	0.0000	0.0026
Urban								
M (15–24)	0.1567	0.0148	1,039	279	1.3095	0.0943	0.1276	0.1857
W (15–24)	0.0015	0.0008	2,581	637	0.9773	0.4923	0.0000	0.0030
MM (15–29)	0.4223	0.0266	547	92	1.2589	0.0630	0.3699	0.4747
MW (15–24)	0.0018	0.0013	1,136	142	1.0221	0.7068	0.0000	0.0044
UM (15–24)	0.1250	0.0150	833	245	1.3061	0.1198	0.0955	0.1544
UW (15–24)	0.0013	0.0009	1,445	494	0.9650	0.7043	0.0000	0.0031
Rural								
M (15–24)	0.1688	0.0172	903	1,685	1.3813	0.1021	0.1349	0.2027
W (15–24)	0.0009	0.0006	2,948	4,893	1.0942	0.6569	0.0000	0.0022
MM (15–29)	0.3509	0.0251	568	1,023	1.2499	0.0714	0.3016	0.4002
MW (15–24)	0.0008	0.0008	1,205	2,199	0.9935	0.9934	0.0000	0.0025
UM (15–24)	0.1045	0.0150	659	1,247	1.2536	0.1431	0.0751	0.1339
UW (15–24)	0.0012	0.0008	1,743	2,694	1.0230	0.7146	0.0000	0.0028

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Table B.2: (Cont'd)

Variable/ respondent category	Value (R)	Standard error (SE)	Number of cases		Design effect (DEFT)	Relative standard error (SE/R)	95% Confidence limits	
			Unweighted (N)	Weighted (WN)			Lower	Upper
Participated in a government- /NGO- sponsored programme in the 3 years preceding the interview (young men and women)								
Combined								
M (15–24)	0.0725	0.0089	1,942	1,964	1.5060	0.1222	0.0551	0.0900
W (15–24)	0.0189	0.0039	5,529	5,529	2.1167	0.2051	0.0113	0.0265
MM (15–29)	0.0677	0.0094	1,115	1,115	1.2475	0.1387	0.0492	0.0862
MW (15–24)	0.0163	0.0045	2,341	2,341	1.7150	0.2757	0.0074	0.0251
UM (15–24)	0.0689	0.0093	1,492	1,492	1.4197	0.1352	0.0505	0.0872
UW (15–24)	0.0237	0.0047	3,188	3,188	1.7497	0.1988	0.0144	0.0330
Urban								
M (15–24)	0.0595	0.0095	1,039	279	1.2995	0.1603	0.0407	0.0783
W (15–24)	0.0211	0.0032	2,581	637	1.1225	0.1506	0.0148	0.0273
MM (15–29)	0.0448	0.0097	547	92	1.0984	0.2171	0.0256	0.0639
MW (15–24)	0.0098	0.0030	1,136	142	1.0249	0.3056	0.0039	0.0157
UM (15–24)	0.0614	0.0105	833	245	1.2565	0.1703	0.0408	0.0820
UW (15–24)	0.0292	0.0048	1,445	494	1.0759	0.1633	0.0198	0.0386
Rural								
M (15–24)	0.0747	0.0102	903	1,685	1.1668	0.1367	0.0546	0.0948
W (15–24)	0.0186	0.0044	2,948	4,893	1.7514	0.2342	0.0100	0.0272
MM (15–29)	0.0698	0.0102	568	1,023	0.9522	0.1460	0.0497	0.0898
MW (15–24)	0.0167	0.0048	1,205	2,199	1.2926	0.2860	0.0073	0.0261
UM (15–24)	0.0703	0.0109	659	1,247	1.0973	0.1555	0.0488	0.0919
UW (15–24)	0.0227	0.0055	1,743	2,694	1.5412	0.2421	0.0119	0.0336
Voted in last election (young men and women, aged 20 and above)								
Combined								
M (15–24)	0.6461	0.0229	798	747	1.3521	0.0354	0.6010	0.6912
W (15–24)	0.5108	0.0235	1,914	2,232	2.0592	0.0461	0.4645	0.5571
MM (15–29)	0.7943	0.0167	1,052	1,029	1.3428	0.0211	0.7614	0.8273
MW (15–24)	0.5282	0.0259	1,499	1,334	2.0062	0.0490	0.4772	0.5791
UM (15–24)	0.6164	0.0335	411	331	1.3942	0.0543	0.5505	0.6823
UW (15–24)	0.3393	0.0329	415	273	1.4149	0.0970	0.2745	0.4041
Urban								
M (15–24)	0.6100	0.0282	473	117	1.2556	0.0462	0.5545	0.6655
W (15–24)	0.3670	0.0206	1,134	274	1.4421	0.0563	0.3264	0.4077
MM (15–29)	0.7663	0.0201	531	89	1.0917	0.0262	0.7268	0.8058
MW (15–24)	0.3524	0.0238	824	103	1.4301	0.0676	0.3055	0.3993
UM (15–24)	0.6069	0.0335	283	84	1.1504	0.0551	0.5411	0.6728
UW (15–24)	0.4025	0.0306	310	107	1.0961	0.0760	0.3423	0.4627
Rural								
M (15–24)	0.6528	0.0266	325	628	1.0061	0.0408	0.6004	0.7052
W (15–24)	0.5309	0.0265	780	1,959	1.4839	0.0500	0.4787	0.5831
MM (15–29)	0.7970	0.0182	521	939	1.0319	0.0228	0.7612	0.8328
MW (15–24)	0.5429	0.0279	675	1,231	1.4547	0.0514	0.4880	0.5979
UM (15–24)	0.6196	0.0434	128	247	1.0066	0.0700	0.5342	0.7049
UW (15–24)	0.2986	0.0508	105	166	1.1309	0.1700	0.1987	0.3985

Note: M: Men, W: Women, MM: Married men, MW: Married women, UM: Unmarried men, UW: Unmarried women.

Appendix C

Data quality tables

Table C.1: Household age distribution

Single-year age distribution of the *de jure* household population by sex (weighted), Bihar, 2007

Age (year)	Women		Men	
	Unweighted Number	Percent	Unweighted Number	Percent
0	1,809	2.6	1,922	2.8
1	1,684	2.3	1,847	2.6
2	1,931	2.6	2,113	3.1
3	2,378	3.3	2,454	3.5
4	2,095	2.9	2,189	3.1
5	2,350	3.3	2,731	4.0
6	2,381	3.3	2,589	3.6
7	2,136	3.0	2,199	3.1
8	2,520	3.4	2,755	3.8
9	1,533	2.1	1,614	2.2
10	2,715	3.6	3,091	4.3
11	1,322	1.6	1,379	1.8
12	2,412	3.0	2,870	3.9
13	1,773	2.2	1,833	2.5
14	1,296	1.7	1,628	1.8
15	2,096	2.6	1,852	2.1
16	1,757	2.0	1,708	2.0
17	1,243	1.4	1,289	1.4
18	2,078	2.6	2,002	2.3
19	1,046	1.2	888	0.9
20	2,140	2.7	1,612	1.7
21	879	1.0	750	0.8
22	1,797	2.3	1,448	1.6
23	998	1.2	728	0.8
24	1,269	1.5	826	0.9
25	1,418	2.1	1,708	2.0
26	1,127	1.4	914	1.0
27	872	1.1	694	0.9
28	1,468	1.8	1,103	1.1
29	511	0.6	391	0.5
30	2,541	3.4	1,823	1.9
31	337	0.4	390	0.5
32	1,268	1.6	1,280	1.5
33	502	0.6	509	0.8
34	480	0.6	463	0.6
35	2,226	2.7	2,696	3.4
36	684	0.8	717	0.9
37	462	0.5	403	0.5
38	972	1.2	848	1.0
39	247	0.3	208	0.2
40	2,355	2.9	2,392	2.9
41	197	0.2	162	0.2
42	763	0.9	804	0.9
43	242	0.3	241	0.3
44	243	0.3	188	0.2
45	2,026	2.7	2,148	2.7
46	357	0.4	349	0.4
47	227	0.3	237	0.3
48	598	0.7	561	0.7
49	133	0.2	137	0.2
50	1,890	2.4	1,989	2.6
51	107	0.1	139	0.2
52	370	0.5	399	0.5
53	117	0.1	132	0.2
54	108	0.1	158	0.2
55	1,509	2.0	1,490	1.9
56	185	0.2	209	0.2
57	93	0.1	132	0.1
58	290	0.4	275	0.3
59	45	0.1	102	0.1
60	1,665	2.2	1,641	2.3
61	59	0.1	112	0.1
62	234	0.2	297	0.4
63	56	0.1	87	0.1
64	62	0.1	88	0.1
65	1,058	1.4	1,140	1.6
66	75	0.1	123	0.1
67	45	0.1	82	0.1
68	129	0.1	149	0.2
69	22	0.0	50	0.1
70+	1,618	2.0	2,069	2.7
Total	**77,639**	**100.0**	**78,553**	**100.0**

Note: The de jure population includes usual residents of the household.

Table C.2: Single-year age distribution of eligible, selected and interviewed young men

Number and percentage of eligible, selected and interviewed young men and percentage of selected young men who were interviewed by single-year age (unweighted), Bihar, 2007

Age (years)	Eligible		Selected for interview		Interviewed		% selected respondents interviewed
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	
MM (15–29)							
15	3	0.2	3	0.2	3	0.3	100.0
16	10	0.6	9	0.6	8	0.7	88.9
17	9	0.6	8	0.6	7	0.6	87.5
18	39	2.4	33	2.3	22	2.0	66.7
19	34	2.1	29	2.0	23	2.1	79.3
20	79	4.9	62	4.3	43	3.9	69.4
21	58	3.6	54	3.8	42	3.8	77.8
22	162	10.1	145	10.1	103	9.2	71.0
23	121	7.6	111	7.8	94	8.4	84.7
24	133	8.3	123	8.6	105	9.4	85.4
25	272	17.0	243	17.0	174	15.6	71.6
26	171	10.7	149	10.4	119	10.7	79.9
27	174	10.9	160	11.2	134	12.0	83.8
28	206	12.9	186	13.0	142	12.7	76.3
29	127	7.9	116	8.1	96	8.6	82.8
Total	**1,598**	**100.0**	**1,431**	**100.0**	**1,115**	**100.0**	**77.9**
UM (15–24)							
15	493	15.3	314	16.9	263	17.6	83.8
16	518	16.1	310	16.7	251	16.8	81.0
17	400	12.4	262	14.1	218	14.6	83.2
18	514	16.0	309	16.6	235	15.8	76.1
19	231	7.2	133	7.2	114	7.6	85.7
20	336	10.5	178	9.6	129	8.6	72.5
21	190	5.9	104	5.6	83	5.6	79.8
22	281	8.7	123	6.6	94	6.3	76.4
23	123	3.8	64	3.4	52	3.5	81.3
24	128	4.0	61	3.3	53	3.6	86.9
Total	**3,214**	**100.0**	**1,858**	**100.0**	**1,492**	**100.0**	**80.3**

Note: The difference between the number of respondents eligible for interview and the number who were selected for interview is due to the sampling design adopted in the Youth Study. Please refer to Chapter 1 for details.

Table C.3: Single-year age distribution of eligible, selected and interviewed young women

Number and percentages of eligible, selected and interviewed female respondents and percentage of selected respondents who were interviewed by single-year age (unweighted), Bihar, 2007

Age (Years)	Eligible		Selected for interview		Interviewed		% selected respondents interviewed
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	
MW(15–24)							
15	207	3.3	107	3.7	97	4.1	90.7
16	294	4.7	151	5.3	136	5.8	90.1
17	348	5.6	181	6.3	165	7.0	91.2
18	801	12.9	281	9.8	226	9.7	80.4
19	510	8.2	253	8.9	218	9.3	86.2
20	1,131	18.3	435	15.2	308	13.2	70.8
21	536	8.7	302	10.6	262	11.2	86.8
22	919	14.8	401	14.0	306	13.1	76.3
23	628	10.1	320	11.2	272	11.6	85.0
24	821	13.3	424	14.9	351	15.0	82.8
Total	**6,195**	**100.0**	**2,855**	**100.0**	**2,341**	**100.0**	**82.0**
UW (15–24)							
15	1,386	32.3	1,245	35.2	1,129	35.4	90.7
16	897	20.9	782	22.1	711	22.3	90.9
17	546	12.7	453	12.8	401	12.6	88.5
18	504	11.8	364	10.3	326	10.2	89.6
19	297	6.9	226	6.4	206	6.5	91.2
20	250	5.8	178	5.0	149	4.7	83.7
21	135	3.2	103	2.9	96	3.0	93.2
22	142	3.3	100	2.8	90	2.8	90.0
23	75	1.8	54	1.5	50	1.6	92.6
24	53	1.2	35	1.0	30	0.9	85.7
Total	**4,285**	**100.0**	**3,540**	**100.0**	**3,188**	**100.0**	**90.1**

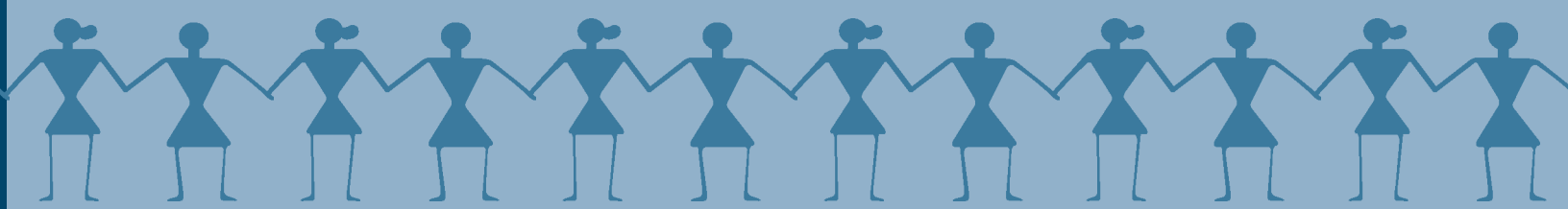
Note: The difference between the number of respondents eligible for interview and the number who were selected for interview is due to the sampling design adopted in the Youth Study. Please refer to Chapter 1 for details.

Table C.4: Completeness of reporting

Percentage of observations with missing information or reported to be unknown to the respondent for selected date measures (weighted), Bihar, 2007

Measures	MM (15–29)		MW (15–24)		UM (15–24)		UW (15–24)	
	% with don't know/ missing information	Unweighted number	% with don't know/ missing information	Unweighted number	% with don't know/ missing information	Unweighted number	% with don't know/ missing information	Unweighted number
Birth date of respondent								
Month only	6.0	1,115	0.9	2,341	7.1	1,492	1.4	3,188
Year only	11.6	1,115	16.1	2,341	9.7	1,492	32.8	3,188
Both month and year	42.9	1,115	73.8	2,341	25.1	1,492	33.7	3,188
Age when respondent first started any unpaid work (years)	0.7	460	8.4	481	1.8	410	3.5	560
Age when respondent first started any paid work (years)	0.2	1,044	5.4	683	0.0	756	1.3	661
Age when respondent first noticed voice change (years)	50.9	1,115	NA	NA	42.0	1,492	NA	NA
Age when respondent first noticed appearance of pubic hair (years)	27.7	1,115	NA	NA	13.5	1,492	NA	NA
Age at menarche (years)	NA	NA	37.5	2,341	NA	NA	19.8	3,188
Age when respondent first spent time alone with romantic partner (years)	1.1	203	1.2	143	0.0	270	2.2	252
Age when respondent first had sex with pre-marital romantic partner (years)	2.1	77	0.0	39	0.0	70	3.5	47
Date of marriage of married respondent								
Month only	3.3	1,115	0.2	2,341	NA	NA	NA	NA
Year only	7.4	1,115	45.3	2,341	NA	NA	NA	NA
Both month and year	8.4	1,115	3.4	2,341	NA	NA	NA	NA
Age when respondent first started cohabiting with wife/husband (years)	0.0	1,115	0.0	2,341	NA	NA	NA	NA

Note: NA: Not applicable.



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